

Chapter V

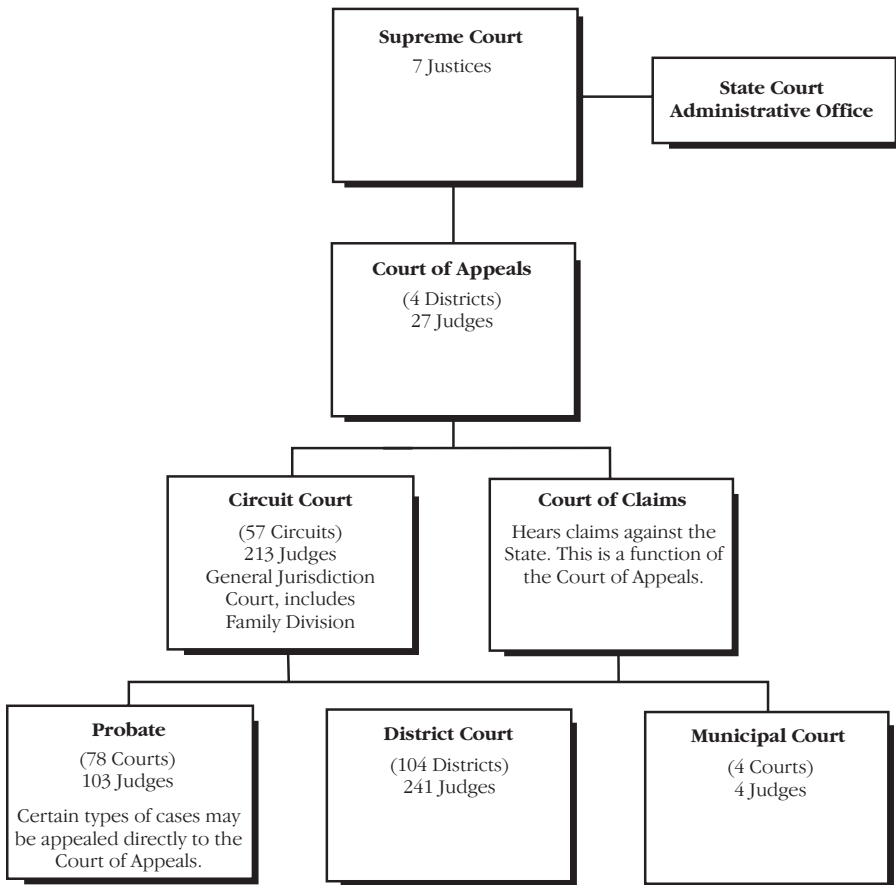
THE JUDICIAL BRANCH



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ORGANIZATION OF THE JUDICIAL BRANCH



The *Constitution of the State of Michigan of 1963* provides that “The judicial power of the state is vested exclusively in one court of justice which shall be divided into one supreme court, one court of appeals, one trial court of general jurisdiction known as the circuit court, one probate court, and courts of limited jurisdiction that the legislature may establish by a two-thirds vote of the members elected to and serving in each house.”

THE SUPREME COURT



JUSTICES OF THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT

Term expires

ROBERT P. YOUNG, JR., Chief Justice	Jan. 1, 2019
RICHARD BERNSTEIN	Jan. 1, 2023
MARY BETH KELLY*	Jan. 1, 2019
STEPHEN J. MARKMAN	Jan. 1, 2021
BRIDGET MARY MCCORMACK	Jan. 1, 2021
DAVID F. VIVIANO	Jan. 1, 2017
BRIAN K. ZAHRA	Jan. 1, 2023

www.courts.mi.gov/supremecourt

*Justice Kelly resigned effective October 1, 2015.

History

Under the **territorial government** of Michigan established in 1805, the supreme court consisted of a chief judge and two associate judges appointed by the President of the United States. Under the “second” grade of territorial government established in 1824, the term of office was limited to four years.

First Grade

Augustus B. Woodward	1805-1824	James Witherell	1805-1824
Frederick Bates	1805-1808	John Griffin	1806-1824

Second Grade

James Witherell	1824-1828	William Woodbridge	1828-1832
John Hunt	1824-1827	George Morrell	1832-1837
Solomon Sibley	1824-1837	Ross Wilkins	1832-1837
Henry Chipman	1827-1832		

The **Constitution of 1835** provided for a supreme court, the judges of which were appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, for seven-year terms. In 1836 the legislature provided for a chief justice and two associate justices. The state was then divided into three circuits and the supreme court was required to hold an annual term in each circuit. The Revised Statutes of 1838 provided for a chief justice and three associate justices.

The **Constitution of 1850** provided for a term of six years and that the judges of the five circuit courts be judges of the supreme court. In 1857, the legislature reorganized the supreme court to consist of a chief justice and three associate justices to be elected for eight-year terms. The number of justices was increased to five by the legislature in 1887. Act 250 of 1903 increased the number of justices to eight.

The **Constitution of 1908** provided for the nomination of the justices at partisan conventions and election at nonpartisan elections.

The **Constitution of 1963** provides that “the judicial power of the state is vested exclusively in one court of justice which shall be divided into one supreme court, one court of appeals, one trial court of general jurisdiction known as the circuit court, one probate court, and the courts of limited jurisdiction that the legislature may establish by a two-thirds vote of the members elected to and serving in each house.” Constitution of 1963, article 6, section 1.

"The supreme court shall consist of seven justices elected at nonpartisan elections as provided by law. The term of office shall be eight years and not more than two terms of office shall expire at the same time." Constitution of 1963, art. 6, sec. 2.

"One justice of the supreme court shall be selected by the court as its chief justice as provided by rules of the court. He shall perform duties required by the court. The supreme court shall appoint an administrator of the courts and other assistants of the supreme court as may be necessary to aid in the administration of the courts of this state. The administrator shall perform administrative duties assigned by the court." Constitution of 1963, art. 6, sec. 1.

The Michigan Supreme Court is the highest court in the state, hearing cases appealed to it from other state courts. Applications for **"leave to appeal"** are filed with the supreme court and the court decides whether to grant them. If an application is granted, the supreme court will hear the case; if denied, the decision of the lower court stands.

In addition to its judicial duties, the supreme court is charged with general administrative supervision of all courts in the state. This is referred to in the state constitution as **"general superintending control."** The supreme court is responsible for establishing rules for practice and procedure in all courts.

The supreme court consists of seven justices. One justice is selected every two years by the court as chief justice. Two justices are elected every two years (one in the eighth year) in the November election. Although nominated by political parties, the justices are elected on a nonpartisan ballot, separate from the ballot for other elective offices. Candidates for the supreme court must be qualified electors, licensed to practice law in Michigan, and, at the time of election, must be under 70 years of age. The salary of the justices is fixed by the State Officers Compensation Commission and paid by the state.

Administrative Functions

In addition to serving as the state's highest court, the Michigan Supreme Court administers the state court system. The State Court Administrative Office is the Court's administrative agency and oversees Michigan's trial courts under the Supreme Court's direction.

The administrative activities include:

- drafting and promulgating state court rules, rules of evidence, and administrative orders;
- providing continuing education for state judges and court staff;
- overseeing courts' management of their caseloads, including tracking how long courts take to dispose of cases;
- informing the public about the justice system and the judiciary through the Court's Annual Report, the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center, press releases, and educational events;
- monitoring courts' handling of child welfare cases, including addressing barriers to permanent placements for children;
- overseeing Michigan's friend of the court offices, that enforce court orders regarding child support, parenting time, and child custody;
- providing technological assistance to trial courts that request it;
- developing statewide court networks and databases for tracking case information;
- overseeing drug treatment courts throughout the state;
- improving collections of court-imposed fines, costs, and fees;
- maintaining the "One Court of Justice" website, which contains sites for the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, State Court Administrative Office, Michigan trial courts, Michigan Court Rules, and other areas of interest;
- supporting community centers that provide mediation services and other alternatives to litigation; and
- proposing legislation to improve the administration of justice.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF JUSTICES



**CHIEF JUSTICE
ROBERT P. YOUNG, JR.**

Term expires January 1, 2019

“Our goal is for Michigan’s judiciary to be a national model of efficiency and service to the public,” says Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr. First selected by his colleagues in 2011 to lead the Court, Young has been dedicated to transforming our state’s court system into a more efficient and customer-focused institution.

As Chief Justice, Young has promoted initiatives to measure judicial performance, track public satisfaction, adopt best practices, and implement technologies that expand public access, increase efficiency and boost productivity of trial courts. “You can’t get a cup of coffee without being asked to provide your opinion about customer service,” Young says. “I believe courts should take the same approach to consulting the public so that good work can be recognized and problem areas addressed.”

During tenure as Chief Justice, the Court has also been dedicated to “rightsizing” Michigan’s judiciary so that it costs no more than necessary for the efficient administration of justice. To this end, 25 judgeships have already been cut, saving taxpayers \$6.1 million over the past four years, and 15 more judgeship are slated for elimination. The cumulative effect will be a seven percent reduction in the total number of judges statewide and \$175 million in savings to taxpayers.

Young has also supported the implementation of innovative technologies to help courts work smarter. This includes a plan to install videoconferencing equipment in every Michigan courtroom, allowing thousands of hearings to be held in “virtual” courtrooms, saving transportation costs and avoiding the security risks of transporting prisoners. In addition, the Chief Justice is spearheading a critically-needed upgrade of case management systems for trial courts statewide. The roll-out of the state-of-the-art MiCOURT system will move critical files from aging mainframes to more modern systems, while helping court staff be more efficient and improve service to the public.

A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, Young joined Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman in 1978, becoming partner in 1982. He became vice president, corporate secretary, and general counsel of AAA Michigan in 1992, prior to joining the Court of Appeals in 1995. After joining the court in 1999, Young was elected in 2000 and reelected in 2002 and 2010 to a term ending on January 1, 2019.

Young has served on the boards of many charitable groups, including the Detroit Urban League, United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit and Vista Maria, a resource center for abused and neglected young women and girls. A former commissioner of the Michigan Civil Service Commission, Chief Justice Young was a trustee of Central Michigan University, University Liggett School, and the Grosse Pointe Academy. He is a former chair of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce “Leadership Detroit” program. In 1999, he was named “Alumnus of the Year” by Detroit Country Day School. Young had been an adjunct professor at Wayne State University Law School for more than 20 years and now teaches at Michigan State University College of Law.

The father of two sons, Young has been married to Dr. Linda Hotchkiss for 40 years.



**JUSTICE
RICHARD BERNSTEIN**

Term expires January 1, 2023

Justice Richard Bernstein became the first blind justice, elected by voters statewide, to the Michigan Supreme Court in November 2014. With a commitment to justice and fairness, Bernstein began his eight-year term in January 2015.

Prior to being elected to Michigan's highest court, Justice Bernstein was known as a tireless advocate for disabled rights as an attorney heading the public service division for The Sam Bernstein Law Firm in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Blind since birth, Justice Bernstein is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of Michigan and earned his juris doctorate from Northwestern University School of Law.

Committed to taking action to help clients who needed him, Justice Bernstein's cases often set national standards protecting the rights and safety of people with and without disabilities.

Among his cases in private practice, he represented the Paralyzed Veterans of America in partnership with the United States Department of Justice in an action against the University of Michigan to allow for safe access for disabled individuals when the university's alterations to the stadium failed to accommodate disabled visitors. The case helped establish guidelines that are used by all commercial facilities across the country.

He also successfully partnered with the United States Department of Justice to force the City of Detroit to fix broken wheelchair lifts on its buses, establishing a precedent for accessibility in public transportation. Further, Bernstein represented disabled residents against the Oakland County (Michigan) Road Commission after "roundabout" traffic circles were built without disabled access, impacting future compliance for road construction throughout the United States under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

In a landmark settlement against Delta Airlines and Detroit Metro Airport, Bernstein gained accessibility for disabled fliers, helping set the standard for which airlines and airports are to be covered under the ADA. A proponent of education, he argued for, and won, preservation of special education funding throughout the state and filed a federal suit against the American Bar Association to put an end to its discriminatory practices toward blind students via requirement of the Law School Admissions Test. He also challenged the City of New York to make Central Park and all parks safer for visitors and accessible for disabled and visually impaired individuals.

Bernstein previously served an eight-year term on the Wayne State University Board of Governors, elected by voters statewide, serving as its Chair from 2009 to 2010. He also served as an adjunct professor in the political science department at the University of Michigan.

Honors Justice Bernstein has received include: "Michiganian of the Year" by the *Detroit News*, one of Crain's Detroit Business' "40 Under 40," and recognition on worldwide television by CNN as a leader in keeping government honest. He was selected by The Young Lawyers Section of the State Bar of Michigan as the 2003 to 2004 Regeana Myrick Outstanding Young Lawyer Award recipient for outstanding commitment to public service and is the recipient of the 2008 John W. Cummiskey Pro Bono Award from the State Bar of Michigan in recognition of his leadership as an advocate and activist.

Michigan Lawyers Weekly named Justice Bernstein a 2009 Leader in the Law and the University of Michigan presented him with the James T. Neubacher Award in 2011 for his unwavering commitment to equal rights and opportunities for people with disabilities. Also in 2011, L. Brooks Patterson, Michigan's Oakland County Executive, selected Justice Bernstein as one of the region's Elite 40 Under 40. In 2013, Justice Bernstein was inducted into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame.

In his spare time, Justice Bernstein is an avid runner, completing 18 marathons — including eight New York City marathons, the full Ironman triathlon in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho in 2008, and the Israman triathlon's half Ironman in Eilat, Israel in 2011. He also previously co-hosted a one-hour legal radio show called "Fighting for Justice" on WCHB-AM (1200) in Metro Detroit.



JUSTICE
MARY BETH KELLY*

Term expires January 1, 2019

Justice Mary Beth Kelly joined the Michigan Supreme Court in January 2011. Before her election to the Court in November 2010, she served as a judge on the Wayne County Circuit Court from 1999 to 2010, and worked as a lawyer and commercial litigation partner in the law firm Dickinson

Wright in Detroit from 1987 to 1999.

Governor John Engler appointed Justice Kelly to the Wayne County Circuit Court in 1999. She was elected to that court in 2000, and reelected in 2002 and 2008. During her tenure on the Wayne County Circuit Court, the Michigan Supreme Court appointed Justice Kelly to serve for three terms as Chief Judge; she remains the only woman in history to serve as Chief Judge of that court. Under her leadership as Chief Judge, she joined with the National Center for State Courts to increase the racial diversity of the Wayne County jury pool. She also entered into deficit reduction agreements to ensure the long-term sustainability of the court's budget. She also led efforts to increase the size of the Court's Family Division and to improve the Friend of the Court system in Wayne County. Those efforts resulted in a doubling of the size of the Family Division and the implementation of the Friend of the Court's privatized call center.

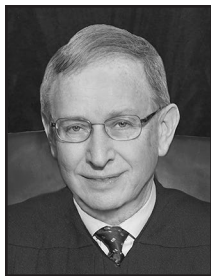
Since joining the Supreme Court, Justice Kelly has authored several opinions of major public significance. She authored the Court's seminal interpretation of the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act in unanimous opinion of *People v Kolanek*, which provided much-needed guidance regarding the medical use of marijuana in Michigan. She authored the lead opinion in *Stand Up for Democracy v Secretary of State*, which held that a referendum petition strictly complied with the relevant provisions of Michigan's election law and, therefore, must be submitted to the voters for their consideration. She has also written significant opinions that protect the rights of children, among them: the majority opinion in *People v Likine*, which held that "impossibility," not simply the inability to pay, governs a defense to the crime of failure to pay child support, and a dissenting opinion in *People v Carp*, which would have applied retroactively the constitutional requirement that juvenile offenders must receive an individualized sentencing determination that considers the offender's youth, personal characteristics, and circumstances of the crime before being sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Justice Kelly serves as the Michigan Supreme Court's liaison for treatment courts, drug courts, and veterans' courts. In January 2015, Governor Snyder appointed Justice Kelly as Chair of the Michigan Committee on Juvenile Justice. Recently, as Co-Chair of the Michigan Race Equity Coalition, she examined the need for the juvenile justice and foster care systems to improve policies and racial disparities in these systems through accurate and meaningful data. Justice Kelly has also served as Chairperson of numerous other statewide committees, primarily focused on child welfare and family matters, and has received awards for her work in child welfare issues. She has also taught Children and the Law as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Detroit-Mercy Law School and has served as an advisor to numerous non-profit organizations.

Justice Kelly graduated from the Notre Dame Law School (1987), where she was a Thomas J. White Center Government Scholar and the Managing Editor of the *Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy*. She graduated with honors from the University of Michigan-Dearborn (1984), where she majored in Political Science and History, was active in the Washington Internship program, and was an elected member of the student government.

Justice Kelly is an avid runner and resides in Grosse Ile with her son.

*Justice Kelly resigned effective October 1, 2015.



**JUSTICE
STEPHEN J. MARKMAN**

Term expires January 1, 2021

Stephen Markman was appointed Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court on October 1, 1999. Before his appointment, he served as Judge on the Michigan Court of Appeals from 1995 to 1999. Prior to this, he practiced law with the firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone in Detroit.

From 1989 to 1993, Justice Markman served as United States Attorney, or federal prosecutor, in Michigan, after having been nominated by President George H. W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate. From 1985 to 1989, he served as Assistant Attorney General of the United States, after having been nominated by President Ronald Reagan and confirmed by the United States Senate. In that position, he headed the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Policy, which served as the principal policy development office within the Department, and which coordinated the federal judicial selection process. Prior to this, he served for seven years as Chief Counsel of the United States Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution and as Deputy Chief Counsel of the United States Senate Judiciary Committee.

Justice Markman has authored articles for such publications as the *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform*, the *Detroit College of Law Review*, the *Stanford Law Review*, the *University of Chicago Law Review*, the *American Criminal Justice Law Review*, the *Barrister's Law Journal*, the *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy*, and the *American University Law Review*. He has also served as a contributing editor of *National Review* magazine, and has authored chapters in such books as "In the Name of Justice: The Aims of the Criminal Law," "Still the Law of the Land," and "Originalism: A Quarter Century of Debate."

Justice Markman has taught constitutional law at Hillsdale College since 1993. He has traveled to Ukraine on two occasions on behalf of the State Department, to provide assistance in the development of that nation's post-Soviet constitution. He is a Fellow of the Michigan Bar Foundation, a Master of the Bench of the Inns of Court, and a member of the One Hundred Club. He has spoken before hundreds of youth, civic, charitable, and legal groups throughout Michigan and nationally, and has coached Little League baseball and basketball. He lives with his wife Mary Kathleen in Mason, and has two sons, James and Charles.

Justice Markman was reelected to the Supreme Court in 2000, 2004, and 2012. His present term expires January 1, 2021.



JUSTICE
BRIDGET MARY MCCORMACK

Term expires January 1, 2021

Justice Bridget Mary McCormack joined the Michigan Supreme Court in January 2013. Before her election to the Court in November 2012, she was a law professor and dean at the University of Michigan Law School. Since joining the Court, Justice McCormack continues to teach at the Law

School as a Lecturer.

Justice McCormack is a graduate of the New York University Law School, where she was a Root-Tilden scholar and won the Anne Petluck Poses Prize in Clinical Advocacy. She spent the first five years of her legal career in New York, first with the Legal Aid Society and then at the Office of the Appellate Defender, representing over 1,000 clients in New York's trial and appellate courts. In 1996, she became a faculty fellow at the Yale Law School.

In 1998, she joined the University of Michigan Law School faculty. At Michigan Law, she taught criminal law, legal ethics, and various clinical courses. Her scholarship focused on the professional benefits of clinical legal education. She also created new clinics at the law school, including a Domestic Violence Clinic and a Pediatric Health Advocacy Clinic.

In 2002, she was made Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. Responsible for the continuing development of the law school's practical education, she continued to expand the clinical offerings at Michigan Law School, launching a Mediation Clinic, a Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, an International Transactions Clinic, a Human Trafficking Clinic, a Juvenile Justice Clinic, and an Entrepreneurship Clinic. In her capacity as professor and associate dean, she conducted and supervised many types of civil and criminal litigation at all levels of the state and federal courts. The University of Michigan Law School's clinical programs are now recognized nationally as one of the best places to be trained as a lawyer.

In 2008, then-Associate Dean McCormack cofounded the Michigan Innocence Clinic, in which students represent wrongfully convicted Michiganders. The clinic has exonerated seven people so far, and has shined a light on the important justice issues underlying wrongful conviction. In 2010, McCormack won the "Justice for All" Award for the Clinic's work, and in 2011 the Washtenaw County Bar Association gave her the "Patriot Award." In 2012, she won the Cooley Law School's "Distinguished Brief Award" for the best brief filed in the Michigan Supreme Court during the term. Also in 2012, the Justice Caucus presented her with the Millie Jeffrey Award and the Washtenaw County Women Lawyers recognized her with the Mary Foster Award. In 2013, Justice McCormack was honored with the Hon. Kaye Tertzag Purple Sport Court Award.

Justice McCormack currently chairs the Supreme Court's Limited English Proficiency Implementation Advisory Committee and participates with a number of professional organizations including the American Bar Association Access to Justice committee, the American Bar Association Working Group on Pro Bono and Public Service, the advisory board of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, the judicial elections committee of the National Association of Women Judges, and serves as a board member of the National Board of Legal Specialty Certification. In 2013, Justice McCormack was elected to The American Law Institute, the leading independent organization in the United States producing scholarly work to clarify, modernize, and improve the law. In 2014, Justice McCormack was appointed by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology to a newly-created National Commission on Forensic Science. The Commission's charge is to work to improve the practice of forensic science by developing guidance concerning the intersections between forensic science and the criminal justice system and work to develop policy recommendations for the U.S. Attorney General, including uniform codes for professional responsibility and requirements for formal training and certification.

Justice McCormack is married to Steven Croley, also a lawyer and law professor, currently on leave from the University of Michigan Law School to serve as General Counsel to the U.S. Department of Energy. They have four children in the Ann Arbor public schools and enjoy frequent family trips to west Michigan.



JUSTICE
DAVID F. VIVIANO

Term expires January 1, 2017

David F. Viviano is the 109th Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. He was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder on February 27, 2013.

Justice Viviano previously served as Chief Judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit and Macomb County Probate Courts, upon his appointment by the Supreme Court in 2011. He was first elected to the Circuit Court in 2006 and served in the court's Civil/Criminal Division. He was reelected without opposition in 2012.

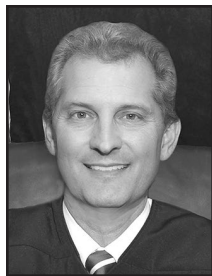
Justice Viviano has participated in a number of initiatives to improve the administration of justice. In 2008, Judge Viviano was one of a small group of judges chosen by the Supreme Court to test reforms to the jury system in Michigan. At the conclusion of the pilot project, the Supreme Court adopted a number of these reforms, which are now being used by judges throughout Michigan. Because of their efforts, Justice Viviano and his colleagues received the 2012 G. Thomas Munsterman Award for Jury Innovation from the National Center for State Courts.

Justice Viviano has also advocated for technological innovation in the court system for better public service. He led the Macomb Circuit Court's e-filing pilot project, working with the County's Information Technology Department and outside vendors. In addition to streamlining court operations, the e-filing project improved the court's ability to manage electronic data and share it with external users, including the public and other units of government. Justice Viviano also expanded the court's use of videoconferencing to conduct court hearings more safely and efficiently and at less cost to taxpayers.

Before becoming a judge, Justice Viviano worked at two nationally recognized law firms, Dickinson Wright PLLC in Detroit and Jenner & Block LLC in Chicago. He then founded his own law firm in Mt. Clemens, Viviano & Viviano PLLC, where he concentrated his practice in commercial and criminal litigation, zoning, and real estate law. Justice Viviano also served as City Attorney for the City of Center Line.

Justice Viviano received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Hillsdale College and his Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan Law School. He is a member of the State Bar of Michigan, the Macomb County Bar Association, the Italian American Bar Association, and the Illinois State Bar Association.

Justice Viviano and his wife, Neran, live in Sterling Heights with their four children.



JUSTICE
BRIAN K. ZAHRA

Term expires January 1, 2023

Justice Brian K. Zahra was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder to the Michigan Supreme Court on January 14, 2011. The people of Michigan subsequently elected him in November 2012 to a partial term and then reelected him in November 2014 to a full term.

Justice Zahra received his undergraduate degree in 1984 from Wayne State University. To finance his education, he opened and operated a small health and personal care retail store in downtown Detroit. Justice Zahra later opened a grocery outlet, also in Detroit, with two partners. In 1987, he graduated with honors from the University of Detroit School of Law, where he served as a member of the Law Review and as Articles Editor of the State Bar of Michigan's *Corporation and Finance Business Law Journal*. Upon graduation he served as law clerk to Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan before joining and eventually becoming a partner in the law firm of Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman. In 1994, Governor John Engler appointed him to the Wayne County Circuit Court where in 1996 he was elected to a six-year term. In December of 1998, he was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals by Governor Engler. He was elected to six-year terms in 2000 and 2006. From December 2005 to January 2007, he served as the Court of Appeals' Chief Judge Pro Tem.

Justice Zahra has served on many professional and legislative committees, including the Michigan Civil Jury Instructions Committee, the Circuit Court Appellate Rules Committee, the Domestic Violence Legislation Implementation Task Force, and the advisory committee for the Michigan Judicial Institute Domestic Violence Benchbook. Justice Zahra also served on the Michigan Board of Law Examiners, which drafts and grades the examination that law school graduates must pass in order to become licensed attorneys. He is currently a Senior Fellow of Law and Public Policy at the University of Michigan, Dearborn campus. He previously served on the adjunct faculty at the University of Detroit-Mercy Law School.

Justice Zahra has been active in many civic and charitable organizations, including Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeastern Michigan, Kiwanis Club International, Leadership Detroit, the Knights of Columbus, the Maltese American Community Club, and the Maltese American Benevolent Society, of which he is a past officer. He is a former board member and officer of the Catholic Lawyers Society, and past officer of the Federalist Society, where he currently serves as a member of the Advisory Board to the Michigan chapter.

Justice Zahra resides in Northville Township with his wife Suzanne and their two children.

JUSTICES OF THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT, 1836-2015

Name	Residence	Term Years
William A. Fletcher	Ann Arbor	1836-1842
George Morrell	Detroit	1836-1843
Epaphroditus Ransom	Kalamazoo	1836-1848
Charles W. Whipple	Detroit	1839-1855
Daniel Goodwin	Detroit	1843-1850
Alpheus Felch	Monroe	1845-1852
Warner Wing	Monroe	1845-1856
George Miles	Ann Arbor	1846-1850
Sanford M. Green	Pontiac	1848-1857
Edward Mundy	Ann Arbor	1848-1851
Abner Pratt	Marshall	1850-1857
George Martin	Grand Rapids	1851-1867
Joseph T. Copeland	Port Huron	1852-1857
Samuel T. Douglass	Detroit	1852-1857
David Johnson	Jackson	1852-1857
Nathaniel Bacon	Niles	1855-1857
Edward H. C. Wilson	Hillsdale	1856-1857
Benjamin F. H. Witherell	Detroit	1857
Benjamin F. Graves	Battle Creek	1857, 1868-1881
Josiah Turner	Howell	1857
Edwin Lawrence	Ann Arbor	1857
Randolph Manning	Pontiac	1858-1869
James V. Campbell	Detroit	1858-1890
Thomas M. Cooley	Adrian-Ann Arbor	1863-1885
Isaac P. Christianity	Monroe	1874-1881
Isaac Marston	Bay City-Detroit	1875-1889
Thomas R. Sherwood	Kalamazoo	1882-1889
John W. Champlin	Grand Rapids	1884-1891
Allen B. Morse	Ionia	1885-1893
Charles D. Long	Flint	1888-1907
Edward Cahill	Lansing	1890
Claudius B. Grant	Marquette	1890-1909
John W. McGrath	Detroit	1891-1895
Robert M. Montgomery	Grand Rapids	1892-1911
George H. Durand	Flint	1892
Frank A. Hooker	Charlotte	1894-1913
Joseph B. Moore ¹	Lapeer	1896-1926
William L. Carpenter	Detroit	1902-1908
Charles A. Blair ²	Jackson	1905-1912
Russell C. Ostrander ³	Lansing	1905-1919
Aaron V. McAlvay ⁴	Manistee	1905-1915
Flavius L. Brooke ⁵	Detroit	1908-1921
John W. Stone ⁶	Marquette	1910-1922
John E. Bird ⁷	Adrian	1910-1928
Joseph H. Steere ⁸	Sault Ste. Marie	1911-1927
Franz C. Kuhn ⁹	Mt. Clemens	1912-1919
Rollin H. Person	Lansing	1915-1916
Grant Fellows	Hudson	1916-1929
George M. Clark ¹⁰	Bad Axe	1919-1933
Nelson Sharpe ¹¹	West Branch	1919-1935
Howard Wiest ¹²	Lansing	1921-1945
John S. McDonald	Grand Rapids	1922-1933
Ernest A. Snow ¹³	Saginaw	1926-1927
Richard H. Flannigan ¹⁴	Norway	1927-1928
Louis H. Fead	Newberry	1928-1937
William W. Potter ¹⁵	Hastings	1928-1940
Walter H. North ¹⁶	Battle Creek	1928-1952
Henry M. Butzel	Detroit	1929-1955
Thomas A. E. Weadock	Detroit	1933
George E. Bushnell ¹⁷	Detroit	1934-1957
Edward M. Sharpe	Bay City	1934-1957
Harry S. Toy	Detroit	1935-1936
Bert D. Chandler	Hudson	1936-1943
Thomas F. McAllister ¹⁸	Grand Rapids	1938-1941
Emerson R. Boyles ¹⁹	Charlotte	1940-1956
Raymond W. Starr ²⁰	Grand Rapids	1941-1946
Neil E. Reid ²¹	Mt. Clemens	1944-1956
Leland W. Carr	Lansing	1945-1963
John R. Dethmers	Holland	1946-1971
Clark J. Adams	Pontiac	1952-1953
Harry F. Kelly	Detroit	1954-1971
Talbot Smith ²²	Ann Arbor	1955-1961
Eugene F. Black	Port Huron	1956-1973

JUSTICES OF THE MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT, 1836-2015 *(Cont.)*

Name	Residence	Years
John D. Voelker ²³	Ishpeming	1957-1959
George Edwards ²⁴	Detroit	1957-1961
Thomas M. Kavanagh ²⁵	Carson City	1958-1975
Theodore Souris	Grosse Pointe Farms	1960-1968
Otis M. Smith	Flint	1961-1967
Paul L. Adams	Sault Ste. Marie	1962, 1964-1973
Michael D. O'Hara	Menominee	1963-1969
Thomas E. Brennan ²⁶	Detroit	1967-1973
Thomas Giles Kavanagh	Birmingham	1969-1985
John B. Swainson ²⁷	Manchester	1971-1975
G. Mennen Williams	Grosse Pointe Farms	1971-1987
Mary Stallings Coleman ²⁸	Battle Creek	1973-1982
Charles L. Levin	Detroit	1973-1997
John W. Fitzgerald	Grand Ledge	1974-1983
Lawrence B. Lindemer	Stockbridge	1975-1977
James L. Ryan ²⁹	Detroit	1975-1986
Blair Moody, Jr. ³⁰	Grosse Pointe Shores	1977-1982
Dorothy Comstock Riley ^{31, 34}	Grosse Pointe Farms	1982-1983, 1985-1997
James H. Brickley ³²	Traverse City	1982-1999
Michael F. Cavanagh	East Lansing	1983-2014
Patricia J. Boyle	Detroit	1983-1998
Dennis W. Archer ³³	Detroit	1986-1990
Robert P. Griffin	Traverse City	1987-1995
Conrad L. Mallett, Jr. ³⁵	Detroit	1990-1999
Elizabeth A. Weaver	Glen Arbor	1995-2010
Marilyn J. Kelly	Bloomfield Hills	1997-2012
Clifford W. Taylor	Laingsburg	1997-2009
Maura D. Corrigan	Grosse Pointe Park	1998-2011
Robert P. Young, Jr.	Grosse Pointe Park	1998-
Stephen J. Markman	Mason	1999-
Diane M. Hathaway ³⁶	Grosse Pointe Park	2009-2013
Mary Beth Kelly ³⁷	Grosse Ile	2011-2015
Brian K. Zahra	Northville	2011-
Bridget Mary McCormack	Ann Arbor	2013-
David F. Viviano	Sterling Heights	2013-
Richard Bernstein	Detroit	2015-

¹ Resigned; Ernest A. Snow appointed Jan. 1, 1926.

² Deceased; Franz C. Kuhn appointed Sept. 6, 1912.

³ Deceased; Nelson Sharpe appointed Sept. 25, 1919.

⁴ Died before taking office; Rollin H. Person appointed July 16, 1915.

⁵ Deceased; Howard Wiest appointed Jan. 25, 1921.

⁶ Deceased; John S. McDonald appointed Mar. 29, 1922.

⁷ Deceased; William W. Potter appointed Feb. 14, 1928.

⁸ Resigned; Richard H. Flannigan appointed Sept. 29, 1927.

⁹ Resigned; George M. Clark appointed Dec. 30, 1919.

¹⁰ Resigned; Thomas A. E. Weadock appointed Aug. 10, 1933 to Dec. 31, 1933.

¹¹ Deceased; Harry S. Toy appointed Oct. 24, 1935.

¹² Deceased; Leland W. Carr appointed Sept. 24, 1945.

¹³ Deceased; Walter H. North appointed Oct. 24, 1927.

¹⁴ Deceased; Louis H. Fead appointed Feb. 21, 1928.

¹⁵ Deceased; Emerson R. Boyles appointed Aug. 8, 1940.

¹⁶ Deceased; Clark J. Adams appointed Aug. 14, 1952 to Aug. 31, 1953.

¹⁷ Resigned; Talbot Smith appointed Jan. 6, 1955.

¹⁸ Resigned; Raymond W. Starr appointed June 2, 1941.

¹⁹ Resigned; John D. Voelker appointed Dec. 31, 1956.

²⁰ Resigned; John R. Dethmers appointed Aug. 15, 1946.

²¹ Deceased; George Edwards appointed May 15, 1956.

²² Resigned; Otis M. Smith appointed Oct. 10, 1961.

²³ Resigned; Theodore Souris appointed Dec. 31, 1959.

²⁴ Resigned; Paul L. Adams appointed Dec. 27, 1961.

²⁵ Deceased; Lawrence B. Lindemer appointed May 5, 1975.

²⁶ Resigned; John W. Fitzgerald appointed Jan. 1, 1974.

²⁷ Resigned; James L. Ryan appointed Dec. 2, 1975.

²⁸ Resigned; James H. Brickley appointed Dec. 27, 1982.

²⁹ Resigned; Dennis W. Archer appointed Jan. 1, 1986.

³⁰ Deceased; Dorothy Comstock Riley appointed Dec. 9, 1982.

³¹ Withdrawn; Patricia J. Boyle appointed April 20, 1983.

³² Resigned; Stephen J. Markman appointed Oct. 1, 1999.

³³ Resigned; Conrad L. Mallett, Jr. appointed Dec. 27, 1990.

³⁴ Resigned; Clifford W. Taylor appointed Aug. 21, 1997.

³⁵ Resigned; Robert P. Young, Jr. appointed Dec. 30, 1998.

³⁶ Resigned; David F. Viviano, appointed Feb. 27, 2013.

³⁷ Resigned effective Oct. 1, 2015.

MICHIGAN COURT OF APPEALS



MICHAEL J. TALBOT, CHIEF JUDGE
CHRISTOPHER M. MURRAY, CHIEF JUDGE PRO TEM

925 W. Ottawa
P.O. Box 30022, Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: (517) 373-0786
<http://courts.mi.gov/courts/coa>

The court of appeals was created by the Constitution of 1963, art. 6, sec. 1, and began operation in 1965 with a bench of nine judges. The legislature increased the size of the bench to 12 judges in 1969, to 18 judges in 1974, to 24 judges in 1986, and to 28 judges in 1993. In 2012, legislation was enacted that will eventually reduce the court's size to 24 judges through attrition.

A candidate for the court of appeals must be a lawyer, under 70 years of age, a qualified elector, and a resident of the district in which he or she is running. Judges are elected in nonpartisan elections for six-year terms. Their salaries are set by the legislature. The court is divided into four geographic districts for election purposes and has offices located in each district: Detroit (District I), Troy (District II), Grand Rapids (District III), and Lansing (District IV). Although elected by district, the judges sit statewide in panels of three, rotating with two different judges every month. The rotation of judges on panels encourages statewide uniformity in rulings by eliminating the likelihood of conflicting legal philosophies developing in specific geographical areas.

The court of appeals hears both civil and criminal cases. Cases may be initiated as discretionary appeals, appeals by right, or original actions (in limited case types as provided by the legislature). Published opinions of the court are controlling across all four districts, and decisions of the court are final unless and until reversed or overruled by a special conflict panel of the court or by the supreme court. The court sits year-round in Detroit, Lansing and Grand Rapids, or in another location as designated by the chief judge. At present, arguments are scheduled twice a year in Marquette and in the northern Lower Peninsula, usually Petoskey or Traverse City.

Every two years a chief judge is selected by the supreme court. In addition to hearing cases, the chief judge or his/her designee performs administrative duties and other assignments required by the supreme court.



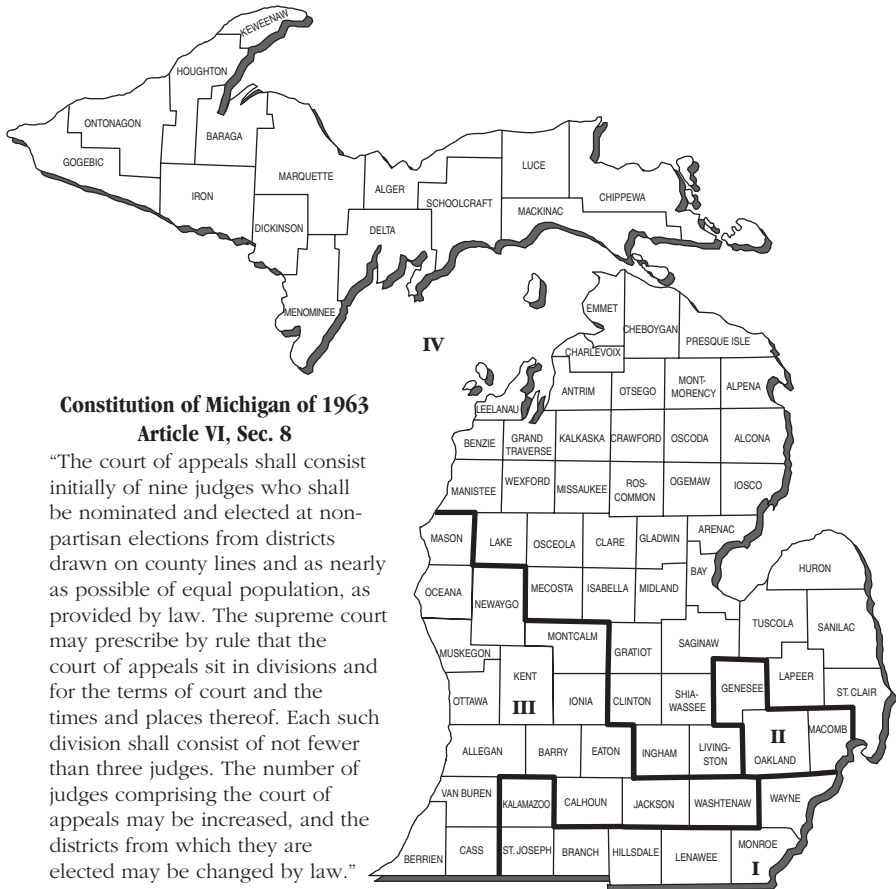
THE COURT OF APPEALS — JUDICIAL DISTRICTS

(Pursuant to Act 40 of 2012)

County	Population in 2010	County	Population in 2010
1st District		4th District	
Branch	45,248	Alcona	10,942
Hillsdale	46,688	Alger	9,601
Kalamazoo	250,331	Alpena	29,598
Lenawee	99,892	Antrim	23,580
Monroe	152,021	Arenac	15,899
St. Joseph	61,295	Baraga	8,860
Wayne	1,820,584	Bay	107,771
Total	2,476,059	Benzie	17,525
		Charlevoix	25,949
		Cheboygan	26,152
		Chippewa	38,520
		Clare	30,926
		Clinton	75,382
		Crawford	14,074
		Delta	37,069
		Dickinson	26,168
		Emmet	32,694
		Gladwin	25,692
		Gogebic	16,427
		Grand Traverse	86,986
		Gratiot	42,476
		Houghton	36,628
		Huron	33,118
		Ingham	280,895
		Iosco	25,887
		Iron	11,817
		Isabella	70,311
		Kalkaska	17,153
		Keweenaw	2,156
		Lake	11,539
		Lapeer	88,319
		Leelanau	21,708
		Livingston	180,967
		Luce	6,631
		Mackinac	11,113
		Manistee	24,733
		Marquette	67,077
		Mecosta	42,798
		Menominee	24,029
		Midland	83,629
		Missaukee	14,849
		Montmorency	9,765
		Ogemaw	21,699
		Ontonagon	6,780
		Osceola	23,528
		Oscoda	8,640
		Otsego	24,164
		Presque Isle	13,376
		Roscommon	24,449
		Saginaw	200,169
		St. Clair	163,040
		Sanilac	43,114
		Schoolcraft	8,485
		Shiawassee	70,648
		Tuscola	55,729
		Wexford	32,735
		Total	2,463,969
2nd District			
Genesee	425,790		
Macomb	840,978		
Oakland	1,202,362		
Total	2,469,130		
3rd District			
Allegan	111,408		
Barry	59,173		
Berrien	156,813		
Calhoun	136,146		
Cass	52,293		
Eaton	107,759		
Ionia	63,905		
Jackson	160,248		
Kent	602,622		
Mason	28,705		
Montcalm	63,342		
Muskegon	172,188		
Newaygo	48,460		
Oceana	26,570		
Ottawa	263,801		
Van Buren	76,258		
Washtenaw	344,791		
Total	2,474,482		

NOTE: The state is divided into 4 judicial districts for the election of judges of the court of appeals. The districts are constituted and numbered in accordance with this table. See 2012 PA 40.

THE COURT OF APPEALS — JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



Constitution of Michigan of 1963

Article VI, Sec. 8

"The court of appeals shall consist initially of nine judges who shall be nominated and elected at non-partisan elections from districts drawn on county lines and as nearly as possible of equal population, as provided by law. The supreme court may prescribe by rule that the court of appeals sit in divisions and for the terms of court and the times and places thereof. Each such division shall consist of not fewer than three judges. The number of judges comprising the court of appeals may be increased, and the districts from which they are elected may be changed by law."

District I: Branch, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, Lenawee, Monroe, St. Joseph, Wayne

District II: Genesee, Macomb, Oakland

District III: Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Cass, Eaton, Ionia, Jackson, Kent, Mason, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa, Van Buren, Washtenaw

District IV: Balance of counties for State of Michigan

JUDGES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS

1st District

Term expires

KAREN FORT HOOD, Detroit	Jan. 1, 2021
KIRSTEN FRANK KELLY, Grosse Pointe Park	Jan. 1, 2019
CHRISTOPHER M. MURRAY, Grosse Pointe Farms	Jan. 1, 2021
MICHAEL J. RIORDAN, Plymouth	Jan. 1, 2019
CYNTHIA DIANE STEPHENS, Detroit	Jan. 1, 2017
MICHAEL J. TALBOT, Plymouth, Chief Judge	Jan. 1, 2021
KURTIS T. WILDER, Canton	Jan. 1, 2017

2nd District

MARK J. CAVANAGH, Royal Oak	Jan. 1, 2021
PAT M. DONOFRIO, Clinton Township	Jan. 1, 2017
ELIZABETH L. GLEICHER, Pleasant Ridge	Jan. 1, 2019
KATHLEEN JANSEN, St. Clair Shores	Jan. 1, 2019
HENRY WILLIAM SAAD, Birmingham	Jan. 1, 2021
DEBORAH A. SERVITTO, Royal Oak	Jan. 1, 2019

3rd District

JANE M. BECKERING, Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2019
MARK T. BOONSTRA, Holland	Jan. 1, 2021
JOEL P. HOEKSTRA, Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2017
JANE E. MARKEY, Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2021
WILLIAM B. MURPHY, East Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2019
DAVID H. SAWYER, East Grand Rapids	Jan. 1, 2017
DOUGLAS B. SHAPIRO, Ann Arbor	Jan. 1, 2019

4th District

STEPHEN L. BORRELLO, Saginaw	Jan. 1, 2019
MICHAEL F. GADOLA, Haslett	Jan. 1, 2017
MICHAEL J. KELLY, Maple City	Jan. 1, 2021
PATRICK M. METER, Saginaw	Jan. 1, 2021
PETER D. O'CONNELL, Mt. Pleasant	Jan. 1, 2019
DONALD S. OWENS, Williamston	Jan. 1, 2017
AMY RONAYNE KRAUSE, Lansing	Jan. 1, 2021

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF COURT OF APPEALS JUDGES¹

First District Judges

JUDGE

KAREN FORT HOOD

Term expires January 1, 2021

In November 2002, Judge Karen Fort Hood made history when she became the first black woman to be elected to the Michigan Court of Appeals. She was born in Detroit, Michigan, received her undergraduate degree in 1980 from the Regents College of the University of the State of New York at Albany and her law degree in 1989 from the Detroit College of Law. Early in her career, Judge Hood worked as a teacher for the Detroit Public Schools, a probation officer, and served as a Special Assistant Prosecutor and Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the Juvenile and Appellate divisions of the Wayne County Prosecutor's office. Judge Hood was elected to the Recorder's Court bench in 1992. In 1997, she was elected to the Wayne County Circuit Court, where she was appointed Presiding Judge over the Criminal Division in 1999. Judge Hood's professional affiliations include the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, the Wolverine Bar Association, and the National Bar Association.

JUDGE

KIRSTEN FRANK KELLY

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Kelly was elected to the Court in 2000 and reelected in 2006 and 2012. She graduated from Michigan State University and from the University of Detroit School of Law. After law school, Judge Kelly joined the Detroit law firm of Durant and Durant, where she practiced civil litigation, and became a partner in the firm.

In 1987, she was elected a municipal judge, and she was twice reelected to that position. She was appointed to the Wayne Circuit Court by Governor John Engler in 1994. In 1997, she was appointed presiding judge of the Family Division of the Wayne Circuit Court by the Supreme Court. In 1999 she was also appointed the presiding judge of Family Division - Juvenile Division.

Judge Kelly served two terms as president of the Michigan Association of Municipal Judges and served on the board of directors of the Michigan District Judges Association. She also serves on the Rules and Family Law committees of the Michigan Judges Association.

Judge Kelly's civic activities include being a member of Leadership Detroit XVII, National Kidney Foundation of Michigan Detroit Executive Leadership Committee, KIDS-Talk Advisory Committee and DMBA Inns of Court. Judge Kelly and her husband, William B. Kelly, have three children.

JUDGE

CHRISTOPHER M. MURRAY

Term expires January 1, 2021

Judge Murray was appointed to the Court in 2002 and elected in 2002, 2008 and 2014. Previously, he served as a judge on the Wayne Circuit Court in the Family Division, as Deputy Legal Counsel to Governor John M. Engler, and as an attorney in private practice. Judge Murray currently serves on the Board of Law Examiners and is the chair of the Board of Advisors for the Michigan Lawyers Division of the Federalist Society. Judge Murray was formerly the chairman of the State Board of Ethics, previously served as a member of the Local Government Claims Review Board, the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions, and was on the board of directors for the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association and the Catholic Lawyers Society.

JUDGE

MICHAEL J. RIORDAN

Term expires January 1, 2019

Michael J. Riordan was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals on March 16, 2012. In November 2012, Judge Riordan was elected to a full six-year term. Previously, the Judge served

¹ Source: <http://courts.michigan.gov/supremecourt/AboutCourt/biography.htm>

as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, as assistant general counsel for the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, and as senior attorney in the Enforcement Division of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. Upon graduation from law school, Judge Riordan was a Federal Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Robert E. DeMascio, of the United States District for the Eastern District of Michigan. Judge Riordan is an adjunct professor of securities regulation and business organizations at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. He has been a member of the State Bar of Michigan's Board of Commissioners since 2006. He is a past-president of the Federal Bar Association of the Eastern District of Michigan and of the Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers. He is vice-president of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law Alumni Association and is on the Board of Directors of the Catholic Lawyers' Society. Judge Riordan received his B.A. from Michigan State University and his J.D., *cum laude*, from the University of Detroit School of Law.

JUDGE

CYNTHIA DIANE STEPHENS

Term expires January 1, 2017

Judge Stephens was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2008. Prior to that appointment, she served as a general jurisdiction trial judge for 23 years. She was appointed to the Wayne County Circuit Court in 1985, after serving as a judge of the 36th District Court. Judge Stephens was the Chief Judge Pro Tempore, Mediation Tribunal Chair and presiding civil division judge of Wayne County Circuit Court for eight years.

An Emory Law School graduate, Judge Stephens has been admitted to practice in Georgia, Texas, and Michigan. Prior to her election to the bench in 1981, she served as vice-chair of the Wayne County Charter Commission, Associate General Counsel to the Michigan Senate, Regional Director for the National Conference of Black Lawyers Atlanta office, and consultant to the National League of Cities Veterans Discharge Upgrade Project.

She has been active in bar work, including 16 years as a Commissioner of the State Bar of Michigan, chairing its Justice Initiatives Committee, Communications Committee, and Children's Task Force. Judge Stephens is a former chair of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan, a former member of the executive Board of the National Bar Association and its Judicial Council and a member of the American Bar Association. She was awarded the State Bar of Michigan's highest honor, the Roberts P. Hudson Award, in 2005.

Judge Stephens has served as adjunct faculty at Wayne State University Law School, the Detroit College of Law, and the University of Detroit Mercy Law School. She has also served as a faculty member for the National Judicial College and the Michigan Judicial Institute. She was a contributing author to the Lawyers Cooperative's Michigan Nonstandard Jury Instructions, as well as numerous articles on subjects ranging from jury selection to ethics.

Judge Stephens has served on numerous civic boards and commissions, including New Detroit, the Inner City Business Improvement Forum, the Detroit Metropolitan Association Board of Trustees for the United Church of Christ, the Greater Detroit Area Health Care Council, and the Girl Scouts. She is a resident of Detroit.

CHIEF JUDGE

MICHAEL J. TALBOT

Term expires January 1, 2021

Judge Talbot was appointed to the Court by Governor Engler in 1998. Previously, Judge Talbot had been appointed by governors of Michigan to serve as a judge of the Wayne Circuit, Detroit Recorder's, and Detroit Common Pleas courts. Judge Talbot also worked as an attorney in private practice. He was a member of the Judicial Tenure Commission from 2004 to 2010 and presently serves by appointment of the Michigan Supreme Court as chair of the Court Reporting Board of Review. Judge Talbot is a Trustee of Madonna University, Sacred Heart Major Seminary, and the Archdiocese of Detroit Endowment Fund. In 2013, Judge Talbot was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to be the Special Judicial Administrator of the 36th District Court. He served in that position for 14 months. In 2014, he was appointed Chief Judge of the Court of Claims and in 2015 reappointed for a two-year term as Chief Judge. Beginning in January 2015, Judge Talbot became the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. Judge Talbot received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and his law degree from the University of Detroit.

JUDGE**KURTIS T. WILDER**

Term expires January 1, 2017

Judge Wilder was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor John Engler in December 1998, elected in 2000, and reelected in 2004 and 2010. Previously, Judge Wilder was Chief Judge of the Washtenaw County Trial Court. Before taking the bench, Judge Wilder practiced law with the law firms of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith, P.C. (Lansing) and Butzel Long, P.C. (Detroit). He graduated from the University of Michigan with an A.B. degree in Political Science in 1981 and from the University of Michigan Law School with a Juris Doctor degree in 1984. Judge Wilder holds memberships in the State Bar of Michigan; the Fellows of the Michigan State Bar Foundation; the Michigan Judges Association; the Association of Black Judges of Michigan; the Federalist Society, Board of Advisors, Lawyers Division–Michigan Chapter; and the Wolverine Bar Association. He has served on numerous court-related advisory committees by appointment of the Michigan Supreme Court and on numerous State Bar of Michigan committees. Judge Wilder is also a former chair of the State of Michigan Community Corrections Advisory Board and serves on the Boards of the Interlochen Center for the Arts and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Second District Judges

JUDGE**MARK J. CAVANAGH**

Term expires January 1, 2021

Judge Cavanagh was elected to the Court in 1988. Previously, he worked as a special assistant attorney general, as an assistant Wayne County prosecutor, and as an attorney in private practice. Judge Cavanagh received his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and his law degree from the Detroit College of Law. Judge Cavanagh has two children.

JUDGE**PAT M. DONOFRIO**

Term expires January 1, 2017

Of Macomb Township; Judge Donofrio was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2002 and elected in 2004 and 2010. In 2013, he was judicially appointed to serve on the Court of Claims as part of the Michigan Court of Appeals. He previously served as a Macomb County Circuit Court Judge after appointment and election in 1997 and 1998 respectively. From 1998 until appointment to the Michigan Court of Appeals, he served as the presiding judge of the civil/criminal division of the circuit court. Judge Donofrio attended the University of Michigan and Wayne State University, received a Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State University in 1967 and earned his Juris Doctor degree from the Wayne State University Law School in 1970. At the time of entry into the judiciary, Judge Donofrio served as president of a major litigation law firm. Judge Donofrio is a member of the Michigan Judges Association, the State Bar of Michigan, and several local bar associations. He served on the Judicial Crossroads Task Force, a sanctioned independent organization endeavoring to create structural efficiencies and reduce costs across the entire judiciary. Judge Donofrio served as Chancellor of the American Inn of Court, Oakland County Bar division, an organization dedicated to the training of new lawyers in the effective and ethical practice of law. Judge Donofrio serves on both the court resources and structure committee and quality review committee and has served on the executive, delay reduction, and settlement committees. He has served on the faculty at the Institute for Continuing Legal Education, the National Judicial College, and the Michigan Judicial Institute. Judge Donofrio served three terms on the Michigan Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions and served on the Michigan Supreme Court Task Force on Trial Court Performance Standards. He has earned certificates of accomplishment from the National Judicial College and the National Drug Court Institute. Judge Donofrio has presented numerous guest lectures. He is married with two children and one grandchild.

JUDGE**ELIZABETH L. GLEICHER**

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Gleicher was appointed to the Court in 2007. Previously, she was an attorney in private practice for 27 years. She began her career at Goodman, Eden, Millender & Bedrosian in Detroit

and opened her own litigation practice in 1994. She is an elected Fellow of the International Society of Barristers (2004) and the American College of Trial Lawyers (2005). She received the Respected Advocate Award from the Michigan Defense Trial Counsel in 2005 and the State Bar of Michigan Champion of Justice Award in 2001. Judge Gleicher has served on the faculty of the Institute for Continuing Legal Education and as an adjunct professor at Wayne State University Law School. She received her bachelor's degree from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, and her law degree from Wayne State University Law School.

JUDGE

KATHLEEN JANSEN

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Jansen was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1989. In November 1982, she was the first woman ever to be elected to the Macomb County Probate Court. In November 1984, she was the first woman elected to the Macomb County Circuit Court. Prior to her elections, she worked as an attorney in private practice. Judge Jansen received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Michigan State University and attended Western Washington State University for graduate studies. She obtained her law degree from the University of Detroit Law School in 1982.

JUDGE

HENRY WILLIAM SAAD

Term expires January 1, 2021

Judge Saad was appointed to the Court in 1994, was elected for a 6-year term in 1996, and was reelected in 2002, 2008 and 2014. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Saad was a partner at Dickinson, Wright, Moon, Van Dusen & Freeman, where he practiced law for 20 years. He was also an arbitrator for the Michigan Employment Relations Commission and a hearing referee for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. Judge Saad received his bachelor's degree from Wayne State University School of Business with honors and his law degree from Wayne State University, magna cum laude.

Judge Saad has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Detroit/Mercy School of Law and Wayne State University Law School where he taught Evidence, Professional Responsibility, and Labor Law. Judge Saad has served on the boards of Detroit Public Television, the American Heart Association, and Brother Rice High School. In 1992, President George H. W. Bush nominated Judge Saad to the federal district court and in 2001, 2003 and 2005, President George W. Bush nominated Judge Saad to the federal appellate bench.

JUDGE

DEBORAH A. SERVITTO

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Deborah A. Servitto was born in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Oakland University in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and from the Detroit College of Law with a Juris Doctor degree in 1982.

She served from 1982 to 1986 as the first female assistant city attorney for the city of Warren. In 1986, Judge Servitto was elected to the 37th District Court. Governor James J. Blanchard appointed Judge Servitto to the Macomb Circuit Court in 1990, and she subsequently was elected 3 times to that court. Governor Jennifer M. Granholm appointed Judge Servitto to the Court of Appeals effective March 23, 2006, to replace Judge Hilda R. Gage.

During her tenure as a circuit judge, Judge Servitto was instrumental in implementing innovative programs, such as a seminar for divorcing parents aimed at helping their children cope with divorce and a drug court program that provides treatment and intensive supervision to nonviolent, drug-addicted felons. She was also one of the founding directors of Care House, a child-friendly haven for young victims of sexual and physical abuse.

In November, 2006, Judge Servitto was elected to a full 6-year term to the Court of Appeals, District 2, which includes the counties of Macomb, Oakland, and Genesee. She was reelected in 2012.

Third District Judges

JUDGE

JANE M. BECKERING

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Beckering was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2007 and elected in 2008, with reelection in 2012. Before taking the bench, Judge Beckering was an attorney in private practice for 17 years. She began her career at McDermott, Will & Emery, P.C. in Chicago, Illinois, before she returned to her hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan and later founded the law firm of Buchanan & Beckering, P.L.C. She received her undergraduate degree (with distinction) from the University of Michigan and her law degree (cum laude) from the University of Wisconsin. Judge Beckering is a member of the Michigan Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions and the Steering Committee for the Hillman Trial Advocacy Program. She is also co-editor of *Michigan Civil Procedure*, published by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

JUDGE

MARK T. BOONSTRA

Term expires January 1, 2021

Judge Boonstra was appointed to the Michigan Court of Appeals in March 2012 and subsequently was elected in 2012 and 2014. In addition to his appellate duties, Judge Boonstra began serving a two-year term on the Michigan Court of Claims, by appointment of the Michigan Supreme Court, effective May 1, 2015. Before joining the Court of Appeals, Judge Boonstra was a senior principal in the law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, P.L.C., where he practiced law for 27 years, including serving as a deputy chair of the firm's Litigation Practice Group and as co-chair of its Appellate Practice Section. At the time of his appointment, Judge Boonstra was recognized in *Best Lawyers in America* in the areas of Antitrust Law; Appellate Practice; Bet-the-Company Litigation; Commercial Litigation; Litigation — Antitrust; Litigation — First Amendment; and Litigation — Securities. He also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Ralph B. Guy, Jr., of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Judge Boonstra holds degrees from both Michigan State University, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, and the University of Michigan, where he graduated with both a Juris Doctor degree and a Master of Applied Economics degree.

In addition to serving many community and civic organizations, Judge Boonstra has been active in the State Bar of Michigan — including serving in the Representative Assembly (2005 to 2011) and as chair of the Antitrust, Franchising, and Trade Regulation Section (2000 to 2001) — as well as the Federal Bar Association and various local bar associations, including as a founding member of the Washtenaw American Inn of Court (2011). He currently serves as Chair of the Michigan Supreme Court Committee on the Model Civil Jury Instructions and as Chair of the Michigan Judges Retirement Board. He has been an author of, or contributor to, a number of legal publications and presentations and as the moderator and a facility member of the ICLE Webinar, *Michigan Jury Reform — What You Need to Know* (August, 24, 2011).

JUDGE

JOEL P. HOEKSTRA

Term expires January 1, 2017

Judge Hoekstra was elected to the Court in 1994. Previously, he worked as an assistant Kent County prosecuting attorney, as a district court judge, and as an adjunct faculty member of Calvin College. Judge Hoekstra received his bachelor's degree from Calvin College and his law degree from Valparaiso University.

JUDGE

JANE E. MARKEY

Term expires January 1, 2021

Judge Markey was elected to the Court in 1994 and reelected in 2002 and 2008. Judge Markey received her B.A., with high honors in Spanish/Secondary Education, from Michigan State University

in 1973 and her law degree, cum laude, from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1981. Previously, she has served as a prehearing attorney/law clerk for the Michigan Court of Appeals and worked as an attorney in private practice with the law firms of Baxter & Hammond and Dykema, Gossett.

She was elected to the 61st District Court serving the City of Grand Rapids in 1990 and reelected in 1992. Judge Markey is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and the Thomas M. Cooley board of directors and Executive Committee (1995 to present). She has previously served on the State Bar Grievance Committee (1990 to 1992); the Academic Advisory Committee for District Court (1993 to 1995); and Quality Control, Personnel ACE Award Committees, Court of Appeals. She also participated as a hearing panelist, state of Michigan, Attorney Discipline Board (1989 to 1995).

Judge Markey is currently a member of Alternative Directions and has served as a speaker/faculty member for numerous entities, including the National Institute of Trial Advocacy, the Hillman Advocacy Program U.S. District Court, Western District, Michigan Judicial Institute, Institute of Continuing Legal Education, the Lawyers' Show, and National Conference of Law Review Boards. In 2012, Judge Markey was selected One of West Michigan's 50 Most Influential Women.

JUDGE

WILLIAM B. MURPHY

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Murphy was appointed to the Court in 1988. Judge Murphy served as Chief Judge of the Court from 2009 to 2015 and was the Chief Judge Pro Tem from 1992 to 1996. Previously, he was a member of the East Grand Rapids City Commission, a law clerk for the Michigan Court of Appeals, and worked as an attorney in private practice for seventeen years. Judge Murphy was a member of the Judicial Tenure Commission (1995 to 2003; Chair, 2000 to 2003) and the State Bar Board of Commissioners (2001 to 2008). He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan State Bar Foundation as well as an Adjunct Professor at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Judge Murphy is an officer and member of the Executive Committee of the Counsel of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal. Judge Murphy received his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and his law degree (*cum laude*) from Wayne State University, where he served as a member of the Wayne Law Review Board.

JUDGE

DAVID H. SAWYER

Term expires January 1, 2017

Hon. David H. Sawyer was elected to the Court of Appeals in 1986. He was elected to the Judicial Tenure Commission by his fellow Court of Appeals judges for a term that began January 1, 2010, has served as the Commission's Secretary and as the Vice-Chairperson, and currently serves as the Commission's Chairperson. Judge Sawyer served as Chief Judge Pro Tem of the Michigan Court of Appeals from November 2009 through December 2014. Before being elected to the bench, he was the Kent County Prosecuting Attorney from 1977 to 1987. Judge Sawyer is a Past President of the Michigan Prosecuting Attorneys Association. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Arizona in 1970 and received his law degree from Valparaiso University School of Law in 1973.

JUDGE

DOUGLAS B. SHAPIRO

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Shapiro was appointed to the Court in 2009. Before taking the bench, Judge Shapiro was a partner in the law firm of Muth and Shapiro, P.C., where he practiced civil litigation in both trial and appellate courts for 17 years. Earlier in his career he served as an Assistant Defender with the State Appellate Defender Office, focusing on criminal appeals. He began his career as a law clerk to State Supreme Court Justice James H. Brickley. Judge Shapiro received his undergraduate degree in history from the University of Michigan in 1983 and his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School in 1986.

Fourth District Judges

JUDGE

STEPHEN L. BORRELLO

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Borrello was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2003, elected in 2004 and reelected in 2006 and 2012. He served as an attorney and partner with the law firm Gilbert, Smith & Borrello, P.C. in Saginaw, Michigan. Judge Borrello also served as an assistant prosecuting attorney from 1988 to 1990 in Saginaw County. He earned his B.A. from Albion College and his J.D. from the Detroit College of Law. He is currently an adjunct professor in the Department of Criminal Justice at Saginaw Valley State University where he teaches Criminal Procedure and Evidence.

JUDGE

MICHAEL F. GADOLA

Term expires January 1, 2017

Judge Gadola received a Bachelor of Arts from Michigan State University's James Madison College in 1985 and a Juris Doctor degree with honors from the Wayne State University Law School in 1990. He worked as Deputy Legal Counsel and then as Director of the Office of Regulatory Reform for Governor Engler. He then worked at the Dickinson Wright law firm in Lansing, having previously worked for the firm in its Detroit office. He returned to work for Governor Engler as Counsel for Executive Organization. He went on to serve as House Majority Counsel in the Michigan Legislature and as Michigan Supreme Court Counsel. He then served as Legal Counsel to Governor Rick Snyder. In December 2014, Governor Snyder appointed him to fill a vacancy at the Michigan Court of Appeals in the fourth district, effective January 5, 2015.

JUDGE

MICHAEL J. KELLY

Term expires January 1, 2021

Judge Kelly was elected to the Court of Appeals in 2008. After serving as a judicial advisory assistant to a circuit court judge, he worked as a trial lawyer in private practice for 20 years. He attended Michigan State University and earned his B.A. from the University of Michigan - Flint in 1984. Following his enrollment at the Detroit College of Law, he was accepted as a participant in the London Law Program at Regents College in London, England in 1987 and received his Juris Doctor from the Detroit College of Law in 1988.

JUDGE

PATRICK M. METER

Term expires January 1, 2021

Judge Meter was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 1999. Previously, he served as a judge of the Saginaw Circuit Court, and he worked as a prosecuting attorney for Saginaw County and as an attorney in private practice. Judge Meter received his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Notre Dame. He serves as a lecturer at Notre Dame Law School's Advanced Trial Advocacy Program.

JUDGE

PETER D. O'CONNELL

Term expires January 1, 2019

Judge Peter D. O'Connell was elected in 1994 and currently serves on the Michigan Court of Appeals in the Hall of Justice in Lansing, Michigan. He was a trial court judge for 16 years prior to his election to the Court of Appeals and also served as the Chief Assistant Prosecutor in Isabella County. He holds a Juris Doctorate from Detroit College of Law and was the first trial judge in the State of Michigan to obtain a Master's of Judicial Studies degree from the University of Nevada-Reno. He has served on the faculty of the Michigan Judicial Institute, the Institute for Continuing Legal Education, the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, and the National

Judicial College. Judge O'Connell has also served as an instructor at New Judges School and is an adjunct professor at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.

Judge O'Connell has authored articles in the *Detroit Law Review*, *Criminal Practice Law Review*, *Colleague*, *Benchmark*, *Michigan Bar Journal*, and the case book entitled *Social Science in the Law*.

Judge O'Connell has been on the bench since 1979.

JUDGE

DONALD S. OWENS

Term expires January 1, 2017

Judge Owens was appointed to the Court in 1999, elected in 2000, and reelected in 2004 and 2010. Previously, he served as judge of the Ingham County Probate Court from 1974 to 1999. Before that, he was an attorney in private practice in Lansing. Judge Owens received his bachelor's, master's, and law degrees from the University of Michigan.

JUDGE

AMY RONAYNE KRAUSE

Term expires January 1, 2021

Judge Amy Ronayne Krause was appointed to the Court of Appeals in November of 2010. Previously, she served as a judge on the 54-A District Court in Lansing for nearly eight years. Judge Ronayne Krause received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Michigan and her Juris Doctor from the University of Notre Dame.

Judge Ronayne Krause began her legal career as a litigation attorney for a private law firm and then served eight years as an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. In 1997, she was appointed an Assistant Attorney General by then Attorney General Frank J. Kelley and was the first recipient of the Frank J. Kelley Award for Excellence in Trial Advocacy. Judge Ronayne Krause worked for the Attorney General's Office for six years. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Ronayne Krause was elected to serve on the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, during which time she chaired the Law and Courts committee. She is an adjunct professor for the Thomas M. Cooley Law School and has lectured for the Prosecuting Attorney Association of Michigan. She has also taught for the Michigan Judicial Institute, including teaching other district judges at the New Judges Seminar in 2007 and 2009. Judge Ronayne Krause has also served as faculty for the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, training other judges on a national level.

In September 2007, Judge Ronayne Krause was recognized statewide for her outstanding work with the State Bar of Michigan's Champion of Justice Award. She has previously served her community as a board member with the Lansing Educational Advancement Foundation (LEAF) and the Uplift Our Youth Foundation. Currently, she serves on the American Red Cross Board of Directors for the Great Lakes Region. Judge Ronayne Krause was appointed in 2011 by the Speaker of the House and the Senate Majority Leader to the State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee and in 2013 became Chair of the Committee.

Judge Ronayne Krause and her husband, Kurt E. Krause, live in the mid-Michigan area.

MICHIGAN TRIAL COURTS

www.courts.mi.gov/scao/trial.htm

Circuit Court

The history of the circuit court dates back to 1824 when three judges of the supreme court held annual terms in the counties of Wayne, Monroe, Oakland, Macomb, and St. Clair and were authorized to hold special sessions in Crawford, Brown, and Michilimackinac counties. In 1835, circuit courts were established by name, but were presided over by the judges of the supreme court.

The county courts in all of the counties of the territory east of Lake Michigan, except Wayne, were abolished in 1833 and replaced by “The circuit court of the territory of Michigan.” The state was divided into three circuits in 1836 and the judges of the supreme court performed the duties of circuit judges. The Revised Statutes of 1846 abolished the court of chancery, and the chancery powers were conferred upon the several circuit courts. The Constitution of 1850 made the office of circuit judge elective and the term of office six years.

The Constitution of 1908 provided for judicial circuits. At present, the state is divided into 57 judicial circuits along county lines. The number of judges within a circuit is established by the Legislature to accommodate required judicial activity. In multicounty circuits, judges travel from one county to another to hold court sessions. Circuit judges are elected for terms of six years in nonpartisan elections. A candidate must be a qualified elector, a resident of the judicial circuit, a lawyer, and under 70 years of age. The legislature sets salaries for circuit judges, which may be supplemented by counties.

The circuit court is referred to as the trial court of general jurisdiction in Michigan because of its very broad powers. Circuit court has jurisdiction over all actions except those given by state law to another court. Generally speaking, circuit court has original jurisdiction in all civil cases involving more than \$25,000; in all criminal cases where the offense involves a felony or certain serious misdemeanors; and in all family cases and domestic relations cases such as divorce, paternity actions, juvenile proceedings, and adoptions.

The **Family Division** is a division of circuit court. The Family Division has exclusive jurisdiction over all family matters such as divorce, custody, parenting time, support, paternity, adoptions, name changes, juvenile proceedings, emancipation of minors, parental consent, and personal protection proceedings. The Family Division also has ancillary jurisdiction over cases involving guardianships and conservatorships and proceedings involving the mentally ill or developmentally disabled.

The **Court of Claims** is a court of statewide, limited jurisdiction established to hear and determine all civil actions filed against the State of Michigan and its agencies. The Court of Claims is located in the Michigan Court of Appeals. Four Court of Appeals judges, including a chief judge, are assigned to the Court of Claims by the Michigan Supreme Court. Each Court of Claims case is heard by a single judge. The Court of Claims operates much like any other Michigan circuit court. In the Court of Claims, however, there is no right to a jury trial.

Probate Court

In 1818, the court of probate was established in each county, the members of which were appointed by the Governor, and from which appeals might be taken to the supreme court. These courts continued in operation until Michigan became a state. The Revised Statutes of 1838 made the office of Judge of Probate elective and the term of office four years. The Constitution of 1850 provided for a probate court in each county, and the Constitution of 1963 expanded the term of office to six years.

The probate court has jurisdiction over cases that involve the admission of wills, administration of estates and trusts, guardianships, conservatorships, and the treatment of mentally ill and developmentally disabled persons.

Each county has its own probate court, with the exception of ten northern counties that have consolidated to form five probate court districts. Each of those probate court districts has one judge. Other probate courts have one or more judges. Probate judges are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets probate judges' salaries.

District Court

District courts were created by Act 154 of 1968, to commence functioning January 1, 1969. These courts replaced justice of the peace courts and circuit court commissioners, as mandated by the

Constitution of 1963. The act also abolished municipal and police courts, but contained provisions allowing certain municipalities to retain their municipal courts. Four municipal courts still exist.

The district court is often referred to as “The People’s Court,” because the public has more contact with the district court than with any other court in the state and because many people go to district court without an attorney.

The district court has exclusive jurisdiction over most traffic violations, civil cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$25,000, landlord-tenant and land contract matters, and civil infractions. The court may also conduct marriages in a civil ceremony.

The district court’s small claims division handles cases in which the amount in controversy is \$3,000 or less. Small claims litigants represent themselves; they waive their right to be represented by an attorney, as well as the right to a jury trial. They also waive evidence rules and any right to appeal the district judge’s decision. If either party objects, the case is heard in the court’s general civil division, where the parties retain these rights. If a district court attorney magistrate enters the judgment, the decision may be appealed to the district judge.

District courts handle a wide range of criminal proceedings, including misdemeanors, offenses for which the maximum possible penalty does not exceed one year in jail. In misdemeanor cases, the district court judge arraigns the defendant, sets and accepts bail, presides at the trial, and sentences the defendant. Typical district court misdemeanor offenses include driving under the influence of intoxicants, driving on a suspended license, assault, shoplifting, and possession of marijuana. The district courts also conduct preliminary examinations in felony cases, after which, if the prosecutor provides sufficient proofs, the felony case is transferred to the circuit court for arraignment and trial. The district courts also handle extraditions to another state for a pending criminal charge, coroner inquests, and issuance of search warrants. The court may appoint an attorney for persons who cannot afford a lawyer and may go to jail if convicted.

District judges are elected to six-year terms on a nonpartisan ballot, subject to the same requirements as other judges. The Legislature sets district judges’ salaries.

Municipal Courts

Municipal courts were organized subject to Act 5 of 1956, although most were established under either Act 279 of 1909 or Act 269 of 1933. The District Court Act of 1968 abolished most of the municipal courts, but permitted some municipalities to retain their courts. Four municipal courts remain: Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, and Grosse Pointe Woods, all in Wayne County.

The municipal courts have jurisdiction over most traffic violations, civil cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$3,000, landlord-tenant matters, and civil infractions. Municipal courts’ jurisdiction in criminal proceedings includes handling misdemeanors and conducting preliminary examinations in felony cases.

Municipal judges are elected to four-year terms and are paid by the municipalities. Candidates must be lawyers, qualified electors, and residents of their municipalities.

CIRCUIT COURT — JUDICIAL CIRCUITS

(Pursuant to Act 236 of 1961, Chapter 5)

County	Population in 2010	County	Population in 2010
1st Circuit		17th Circuit	
Hillsdale	46,688	Kent	602,622
2nd Circuit		18th Circuit	
Berrien	156,813	Bay	107,771
3rd Circuit		19th Circuit	
Wayne	1,820,584	Benzie	17,525
4th Circuit		Manistee	24,733
Jackson	160,248	Total	42,258
5th Circuit		20th Circuit	
Barry	59,173	Ottawa	263,801
6th Circuit		21st Circuit	
Oakland	1,202,362	Isabella	70,311
7th Circuit		22nd Circuit	
Genesee	425,790	Washtenaw	344,791
8th Circuit		23rd Circuit	
Ionia	63,905	Alcona	10,942
Montcalm	63,342	Arenac	15,899
Total	127,427	Iosco	25,887
9th Circuit		Oscoda	8,640
Kalamazoo	250,331	Total	61,368
10th Circuit		24th Circuit	
Saginaw	200,169	Sanilac	43,114
11th Circuit		25th Circuit	
Alger	9,601	Marquette	67,077
Luce	6,631	26th Circuit	
Mackinac	11,113	Alpena	29,598
Schoolcraft	8,485	Montmorency	9,765
Total	35,830	Total	39,363
12th Circuit		27th Circuit	
Baraga	8,860	Newaygo	48,460
Houghton	36,628	Oceana	26,570
Keweenaw	2,156	Total	75,030
Total	47,644	28th Circuit	
13th Circuit		Missaukee	14,849
Antrim	23,580	Wexford	32,735
Grand Traverse	86,986	Total	47,584
Leelanau	21,708	29th Circuit	
Total	132,274	Clinton	75,382
14th Circuit		Gratiot	42,476
Muskegon	172,188	Total	117,858
15th Circuit		30th Circuit	
Branch	45,248	Ingham	280,895
16th Circuit		31st Circuit	
Macomb	840,978	St. Clair	163,040

CIRCUIT COURT — JUDICIAL CIRCUITS (Cont.)

County	Population in 2010	County	Population in 2010
32nd Circuit		46th Circuit	
Gogebic	16,427	Crawford	14,074
Ontonagon	6,780	Kalkaska	17,153
Total	23,207	Otsego	24,164
		Total	55,391
33rd Circuit		47th Circuit	
Charlevoix	25,949	Delta	37,069
34th Circuit		48th Circuit	
Ogemaw	21,699	Allegan	111,408
Roscommon	24,449		
Total	46,148	49th Circuit	
35th Circuit		Mecosta	42,798
Shiawassee	70,648	Osceola	23,528
36th Circuit		Total	66,326
Van Buren	76,258	50th Circuit	
37th Circuit		Chippewa	38,520
Calhoun	136,146	51st Circuit	
38th Circuit		Lake	11,539
Monroe	152,021	Mason	28,705
39th Circuit		Total	40,244
Lenawee	99,892	52nd Circuit	
40th Circuit		Huron	33,118
Lapeer	88,319	53rd Circuit	
41st Circuit		Cheboygan	26,152
Dickinson	26,168	Presque Isle	13,376
Iron	11,817	Total	39,528
Menominee	24,029	54th Circuit	
Total	62,014	Tuscola	55,729
42nd Circuit		55th Circuit	
Midland	83,629	Clare	30,926
43rd Circuit		Gladwin	25,692
Cass	52,293	Total	56,618
44th Circuit		56th Circuit	
Livingston	180,967	Eaton	107,759
45th Circuit		57th Circuit	
St. Joseph	61,295	Emmet	32,694

CIRCUIT COURT — JUDICIAL CIRCUITS



2015 Courts and Judgeships

LEGEND	TOTALS
# - Circuit Court	213 - Judgeships
(#) - Number of Circuit Court Judgeships	57 - Number of Judicial Circuits

JUDGES OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

Circuit	County	Judge	Circuit	County	Judge
1	Hillsdale	Michael R. Smith	6	Oakland	James M. Alexander Martha Anderson Leo Bowman Mary Ellen Brennan Rae Lee Chabot Lisa Ortlieb Gorcyca Nanci J. Grant Shalina D. Kumar Denise Langford-Morris Lisa Langton Cheryl A. Matthews Karen D. McDonald Phyllis C. McMillen Rudy J. Nichols Colleen A. O'Brien Daniel Patrick O'Brien Wendy Lynn Potts Michael D. Warren, Jr. Joan E. Young
2	Berrien	John M. Donahue Charles T. LaSata Angela Pasula Scott Schofield	7	Genesee	Duncan M. Beagle Joseph J. Farah Judith A. Fullerton John A. Gadola Archie L. Hayman Geoffrey L. Neithercut David J. Newblatt Michael J. Theile Richard B. Yuille
3	Wayne	David J. Allen Annette J. Berry Gregory D. Bill Ulysses W. Boykin Karen Y. Braxton Margie R. Braxton Megan Maher Brennan James A. Callahan Thomas Cameron Jerome C. Cavanagh Eric W. Cholak James R. Chylinski Robert J. Colombo, Jr. Kevin J. Cox Daphne Means Curtis Christopher D. Dingell Charlene M. Elder Vonda R. Evans Edward Ewell, Jr. Patricia Susan Fresard Sheila Ann Gibson John H. Gillis, Jr. Alexis Glendening David Alan Groner Richard B. Halloran, Jr. Cynthia Gray Hathaway Dana Margaret Hathaway Daniel Arthur Hathaway Michael M. Hathaway Charles S. Hegarty Catherine Heise Susan L. Hubbard Muriel D. Hughes Edward Joseph Connie Marie Kelley Timothy Michael Kenny Qiana D. Lillard Kathleen I. Macdonald Kathleen M. McCarthy Bruce U. Morrow John A. Murphy Maria L. Oxholm Lynne A. Pierce Lita Masini Popke Daniel P. Ryan Richard M. Skutt Mark T. Slavens Leslie Kim Smith Virgil C. Smith Martha M. Snow Craig S. Strong Brian R. Sullivan Lawrence S. Talon Deborah A. Thomas Margaret M. VanHouten Shannon N. Walker	8	Ionia	David A. Hoort Suzanne Kreeger
			9	Kalamazoo	Paul J. Bridenstine Gary C. Giguere, Jr. Stephen D. Gorsalitz Pamela L. Lightvoet Alexander C. Lipsey
			10	Saginaw	Janet M. Boes Fred L. Borchard James T. Borchard Darnell Jackson Robert L. Kaczmarek
			11	Alger Luce Mackinac Schoolcraft	William W. Carmody
			12	Baraga Houghton Keweenaw	Charles R. Goodman
			13	Antrim Gd. Traverse Leelanau	Thomas G. Power Philip E. Rodgers, Jr.
			14	Muskegon	Timothy G. Hicks Kathy L. Hoogstra William C. Marietti Annette Rose Smedley
			15	Branch	Patrick W. O'Grady
			16	Macomb	James M. Biernat, Jr. Richard L. Caretti Mary A. Chrzanoswski Diane M. Druzinski Jennifer Faunce John C. Foster James M. Maceroni Edward A. Servitto, Jr. Mark S. Switalski Matthew S. Switalski Kathryn A. Viviano Tracey A. Yokich
4	Jackson	Susan E. Beebe Richard N. LaFlamme John G. McBain, Jr. Thomas D. Wilson			
5	Barry	Amy McDowell			

JUDGES OF THE CIRCUIT COURT *(Cont.)*

Circuit	County	Judge	Circuit	County	Judge
17	Kent	George S. Butth Paul J. Denenfeld Kathleen A. Feeney Donald A. Johnston, III Dennis B. Leiber Jay Quist Paul J. Sullivan Mark A. Trusock Christopher P. Yates Daniel V. Zemaitis	34	Ogemaw Roscommon	Michael J. Baumgartner
18	Bay	Harry P. Gill Kenneth W. Schmidt Joseph K. Sheeran	35	Shiawassee	Matthew J. Stewart
19	Benzie Manistee	David A. Thompson	36	Van Buren	Kathleen Brickley Jeffrey J. Dufon
20	Ottawa	Kent D. Engle Jon H. Hulsing Edward R. Post Jon Van Allsburg	37	Calhoun	Brian Kirkham Sarah Soules Lincoln Stephen B. Miller Conrad J. Sindt
21	Isabella	Paul H. Chamberlain Mark H. Duthie	38	Monroe	Mark S. Braunlich Michael A. Weipert Daniel White
22	Washtenaw	Archie Cameron Brown Patrick J. Conlin, Jr. Timothy P. Connors Carol Anne Kuhnke David S. Swartz	39	Lenawee	Anna Marie Anzalone Margaret Murray-Scholz Noe
23	Alcona Arenac Iosco Oscoda	William F. Myles	40	Lapeer	Nick O. Holowka Byron J. Konschuh
24	Sanilac	Donald A. Teeple	41	Dickinson Iron Menominee	Mary Brouillette Barglind Richard J. Cejello
25	Marquette	Jennifer Mazzuchi Thomas L. Solka	42	Midland	Michael J. Beale Stephen Carras
26	Alpena Montmorency	Michael G. Mack	43	Cass	Michael E. Dodge
27	Newaygo Oceana	Anthony A. Monton	44	Livingston	Michael P. Hatty David Reader
28	Missaukee Wexford	William M. Faggerman	45	St. Joseph	Paul E. Stutesman
29	Clinton Gratiot	Michelle M. Rick Randy L. Tahvonen	46	Crawford Kalkaska Otsego	Janet M. Allen George J. Mertz
30	Ingham	Rosemarie E. Aquilina Laura Baird Clinton Canady, III William E. Collette Joyce Draganchuk James S. Jamo Janelle A. Lawless	47	Delta	Stephen T. Davis
31	St. Clair	Daniel J. Kelly Cynthia A. Lane Michael L. West	48	Allegan	Margaret Bakker Kevin W. Cronin
32	Gogebic Ontonagon	Roy D. Gotham	49	Mecosta Osceola	Kimberly L. Booher Scott P. Hill-Kennedy
33	Charlevoix	Roy C. Hayes, III	50	Chippewa	Nicholas J. Lambros
			51	Lake Mason	Susan K. Sniegowski
			52	Huron	Gerald M. Prill
			53	Cheboygan Presque Isle	Scott Lee Pavlich
			54	Tuscola	Amy Grace Gierhart
			55	Clare Gladwin	Thomas R. Evans Roy G. Mienk
			56	Eaton	Janice K. Cunningham Jeffrey L. Sauter
			57	Emmet	Charles W. Johnson

MICHIGAN PROBATE COURTS AND PROBATE COURT DISTRICTS



Constitution of Michigan of 1963 Article VI, Sec. 15

“In each county organized for judicial purposes there shall be a probate court. The legislature may create or alter probate court districts of more than one county if approved in each affected county by a majority of the electors voting on the question . . .”

2015 Courts and Judgeships

LEGEND	TOTALS
(#) - Probate Court Districts	103 - Judgeships
(#) - Number of Probate Court Judgeships	78 - Number of Probate Courts

JUDGES OF THE PROBATE COURT

County	Judge of Probate	County	Judge of Probate
Alcona	Laura A. Frawley	Menominee	William A. Hupy
Alger	*	Midland	Dorene S. Allen
Allegan	Michael L. Buck	Missaukee	Charles R. Parsons
Alpena	Thomas J. LaCross	Monroe	Frank L. Arnold
Antrim	Norman R. Hayes		Cheryl Lohmeyer
Arenac	Richard E. Vollbach, Jr.	Montcalm	Charles W. Simon, III
Baraga	Timothy S. Brennan	Montmorency	Benjamin T. Bolser
Barry	William M. Doherty	Muskegon	Neil G. Mullally
Bay	John C. Keuvelaar		Gregory Christopher Pittman
Benzie	John Mead	Newaygo	Graydon W. Dimkoff
Berrien	Mabel Johnson Mayfield	Oakland	Linda S. Hallmark
	Thomas E. Nelson		Daniel A. O'Brien
Branch	Kirk A. Kashian		Elizabeth M. Pezzetti
Calhoun	Michael L. Jaconette		Kathleen A. Ryan
Cass	Susan L. Dobrich	Oceana	Bradley G. Lambrix
Charlevoix	***	Ogemaw	Shana A. Lambourn
Cheboygan	Robert John Butts	Ontonagon	Janis M. Burgess
Chippewa	Elizabeth Biolette Church	Osceola	*****
Clare	****	Oscoda	Kathryn Joan Root
Clinton	Lisa Sullivan	Otsego	Michael K. Cooper
Crawford	Monte Burmeister	Ottawa	Mark A. Feyen
Delta	Robert E. Goebel, Jr.	Presque Isle	Donald J. McLennan
Dickinson	Thomas D. Slagle	Roscommon	Douglas C. Dossou
Eaton	Thomas K. Byerley	Saginaw	Patrick J. McGraw
Emmet	***		Barbara L. Meter
Genesee	Jennie E. Barkey	St. Clair	Elwood L. Brown
	F. Kay Behm		John Tomlinson
Gladwin	****	St. Joseph	David C. Tomlinson
Gogebic	Joel L. Massie	Sanilac	Gregory S. Ross
Grand Traverse	Melanie Stanton	Schoolcraft	*
Gratiot	Kristin M. Bakker	Shiawassee	Thomas J. Dignan
Hillsdale	Michelle Snell Bianchi	Tuscola	Nancy Thane
Houghton	Fraser T. Strome	Van Buren	David DiStefano
Huron	David L. Clabuesch	Washtenaw	Darlene A. O'Brien
	David B. Herrington		Julia Owdziej
Ingham	R. George Economy	Wayne	June E. Blackwell-Hatcher
	Richard Joseph Garcia		Freddie G. Burton, Jr.
Ionia	Robert S. Sykes, Jr.		Judy A. Hartsfield
Iosco	Christopher P. Martin		Terrance A. Keith
Iron	C. Joseph Schwedler		Milton L. Mack, Jr.
Isabella	William T. Ervin		Lisa Marie Neilson
Jackson	Diane M. Rappleye		Frank S. Szymanski
Kalamazoo	Tiffany Ankley	Wexford	Kenneth L. Tacoma
	Curtis J. Bell		
	G. Scott Pierangeli	* District 5	Charles C. Nebel
Kalkaska	Lynne Marie Buday	Alger	
Kent	Patricia D. Gardner	Schoolcraft	
	G. Patrick Hillary	** District 6	W. Clayton Graham
Keweenaw	David M. Murkowski	Luce	
Lake	James G. Jaaskelainen	Mackinac	
Lapeer	Mark S. Wickens	*** District 7	Frederick R. Mulhauser
Lapeer	Justus C. Scott	Charlevoix	
Leelanau	Larry J. Nelson	Emmet	
Lenawee	Gregg P. Iddings	**** District 17	Marcy A. Klaus
Livingston	Miriam Cavanaugh	Clare	
Luce	**	Gladwin	
Mackinac	**	**** District 18	Marco S. Menezes
Macomb	Kathryn A. George	Mecosta	
	Carl J. Marlinga	Osceola	
Manistee	Thomas N. Brunner		
Marquette	Cheryl L. Hill		
Mason	Jeffrey C. Nellis		
Mecosta	*****		

DISTRICT COURT — JUDICIAL DISTRICTS



Unnumbered counties are shown in detail on the following pages.

2015 Courts and Judgeships

LEGEND		TOTALS	
#	- District Court	241	- Judgeships
⊕	- Number of District Court Judgeships*	104	- Number of District Courts

*In a few counties, the probate judge also serves as the district court judge. Those district courts are listed as having 0 judges.

JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT

District	Geographical Area	Judge
1	Monroe County	Terrence P. Bronson Jarod M. Calkins Jack Vitale
2A	Lenawee County	Jonathan L. Poer Laura S. Schaedler
2B	Hillsdale County	Sara S. Lisznyai
3A	Branch County	Brent R. Weigle
3B	St. Joseph County	Jeffrey C. Middleton Robert Pattison
4	Cass County	Stacey A. Rentfrow
5	Berrien County	Gary J. Bruce Arthur J. Cotter Donna B. Howard Sterling R. Schrock Dennis M. Wiley
7	Van Buren County	Arthur H. Clarke, III Robert T. Hentchel
8	Kalamazoo County	Anne E. Blatchford Christopher Haenicke Robert C. Kropf Julie K. Phillips Richard A. Santoni Vincent C. Westra
10	Calhoun County & the City of Battle Creek	Samuel I. Durham, Jr. John A. Hallacy Franklin K. Line, Jr. James D. Norlander
12	Jackson County	Joseph S. Filip Daniel A. Goostrey Michael J. Klaeren R. Darryl Mazur
14A	Washtenaw County, except City of Ann Arbor & Township of Ypsilanti	Richard E. Conlin J. Cedric Simpson Kirk W. Tabbey
14B	Township of Ypsilanti	Charles Pope
15	City of Ann Arbor	Joseph F. Burke Christopher S. Easthope Elizabeth Pollard Hines
16	City of Livonia	Sean P. Kavanagh Kathleen J. McCann
17	Township of Redford	Karen Khalil Charlotte L. Wirth
18	City of Westland	Sandra A. Cicirelli Mark A. McConnell
19	City of Dearborn	William C. Hultgren Sam A. Salamey Mark W. Somers
20	City of Dearborn Heights	Mark J. Plawecki David Turfe
21	City of Garden City	Richard L. Hammer, Jr.
22	City of Inkster	Sabrina L. Johnson
23	City of Taylor	Geno Salomone Joseph D. Slaven
24	Cities of Allen Park & Melvindale	John T. Courtright Richard A. Page
25	Cities of Lincoln Park & Ecorse	Michael F. Ciugan David J. Zelenak

JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT *(Cont.)*

District	Geographical Area	Judge
27	Cities of Wyandotte & Riverview	Randy L. Kalmbach
28	City of Southgate.	James A. Kandrevas
29	City of Wayne	Laura Redmond Mack
30	City of Highland Park	Brigette R. Officer-Hill
31	City of Hamtramck	Paul J. Paruk
32A	City of Harper Woods	Daniel S. Palmer
33	Cities of Trenton, Gibraltar, Woodhaven, Rockwood & Flat Rock; Townships of Brownstown & Grosse Ile	Jennifer Coleman Hesson James Kurt Kersten Michael K. McNally
34	Cities of Romulus and Belleville; Townships of Sumpter, Van Buren & Huron.	Tina Brooks Green Brian A. Oakley David M. Parrott
35	Cities of Northville & Plymouth; Townships of Northville, Plymouth & Canton	Michael J. Gerou Ronald W. Lowe James A. Plakas
36	City of Detroit.	Lydia Nance Adams Roberta C. Archer Joseph N. Baltimore Nancy McCaughan Blount Izetta F. Bright Demetria Brue Esther L. Bryant-Weekes Ruth C. Carter Donald Coleman Prentis Edwards, Jr. Wanda Evans Deborah Geraldine Ford Ruth Ann Garrett Ronald Giles Katherine Hansen Shannon A. Holmes Patricia L. Jefferson Alicia A. Jones-Coleman Kenneth J. King Deborah L. Langston Leonia J. Lloyd Miriam B. Martin-Clark William McConico Donna R. Millhouse B. Pennie Millender Cylenthia LaToye Miller David Perkins Kevin F. Robbins David S. Robinson, Jr. Brenda K. Sanders Michael E. Wagner
37	Cities of Center Line & Warren	John M. Chmura Michael Chupa Suzanne Faunce Matthew P. Sabaugh
38	City of Eastpointe	Carl F. Gerds, III
39	Cities of Roseville & Fraser	Joseph F. Boedeker Marco A. Santia Catherine B. Steenland
40	City of St. Clair Shores.	Mark A. Fratarcangeli Joseph Craigen Oster

JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT *(Cont.)*

District	Geographical Area	Judge
41A	Cities of Utica & Sterling Heights; Townships of Shelby & Macomb	Michael S. Maceroni Douglas P. Shepherd Stephen S. Sierawski Kimberley Anne Wiegand
41B	City of Mt. Clemens; Townships of Clinton & Harrison . . .	Linda Davis Carrie Lynn Fuca Sebastian Lucido
42, Div. 1	Cities of Memphis & Richmond; Townships of Bruce, Washington, Armada, Ray & Richmond	Denis R. LeDuc
Div. 2	City of New Baltimore; Townships of Lenox & Chesterfield	William H. Hackel, III
43	Cities of Madison Heights, Ferndale & Hazel Park	Charles G. Goedert Keith P. Hunt Joseph Longo
44	Cities of Royal Oak & Berkley	Derek W. Meinecke James L. Wittenberg
45	Cities of Huntington Woods, Oak Park & Pleasant Ridge; Township of Royal Oak	Michelle Friedman Appel David M. Gubow
46	Cities of Southfield & Lathrup Village; Township of Southfield	Shelia R. Johnson Debra Nance William J. Richards
47	Cities of Farmington & Farmington Hills	James Brady Marla E. Parker
48	Cities of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Sylvan Lake, Keego Harbor & Orchard Lake Village; Townships of Bloomfield & West Bloomfield	Marc Barron Diane D'Agostini Kimberly Small
50	City of Pontiac	Ronda Fowlkes Gross Michael C. Martinez Preston G. Thomas Cynthia Thomas Walker
51	Township of Waterford	Jodi R. Debbrecht Richard D. Kuhn, Jr.
52, Div. 1	Cities of Novi, South Lyon, Wixom & Walled Lake; Townships of Milford, Highland, Commerce, Lyon & Novi	Robert Bondy Thomas David Law Travis Reeds
Div. 2	City of Clarkston; Townships of Springfield, Independence, Holly, Groveland, Rose, White Lake & Brandon	Joseph G. Fabrizio Kelley Renae Kostin
Div. 3	Cities of Rochester, Auburn Hills, Rochester Hills & Lake Angelus; Townships of Oxford, Addison, Orion & Oakland	Lisa L. Asadoorian Nancy Towlin Carniak Julie A. Nicholson
Div. 4	Cities of Clawson & Troy	Kirsten Nielsen Hartig Maureen M. McGinnis
53	Livingston County	Theresa M. Brennan L. Suzanne Geddis Carol Sue Reader
54A	City of Lansing	Louise Alderson Patrick F. Cherry Hugh B. Clarke, Jr. Frank J. DeLuca
54B	City of East Lansing	Richard D. Ball Andrea Andrews Larkin
55	Ingham County, except Cities of Lansing & East Lansing . .	Donald L. Allen Thomas P. Boyd

JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT *(Cont.)*

District	Geographical Area	Judge
56A	Eaton County	Harvey J. Hoffman Julie H. Reincke
56B	Barry County	Michael Lee Schipper
57	Allegan County	William A. Baillargeon Joseph S. Skocelas
58	Ottawa County	Craig E. Bunce Susan A. Jonas Bradley S. Knoll Kenneth D. Post
59	Cities of Grandville & Walker	Peter P. Versluis
60	Muskegon County	Harold F. Closz, III Maria Ladas Hoopes Raymond J. Kostrzewa Andrew Wierengo
61	City of Grand Rapids	David J. Buter Michael J. Distel Jennifer Faber Jeanine Nemesi LaVille Donald H. Passenger Kimberly A. Schaefer
62A	City of Wyoming	Pablo Cortes Steven M. Timmers
62B	City of Kentwood	William G. Kelly
63, Div. 1	Cities of Cedar Springs & Rockford; Townships of Tyrone, Solon, Nelson, Spencer, Sparta, Algoma, Courtland, Oakfield, Alpine, Plainfield, Cannon & Grattan	Jeffrey J. O'Hara
Div. 2	Cities of East Grand Rapids & Lowell; Townships of Grand Rapids, Ada, Vergennes, Cascade, Lowell, Byron, Gaines, Caledonia & Bowne	Sara J. Smolenski
64A	Ionia County	Raymond P. Voet
64B	Montcalm County	Donald R. Hemingsen
65A	Clinton County	Michael E. Clarizio
65B	Gratiot County	Stewart D. McDonald
66	Shiawassee County	Ward L. Clarkson Terrance P. Dignan
67, Div. 1	Cities of Flushing & Clio; Townships of Flushing, Flint, Montrose, Thetford & Vienna	David J. Goggins
Div. 2	Cities of Davison & Burton; Townships of Davison, Forest, Richfield & Atlas	Mark W. Latchana Jennifer J. Manley
Div. 3	City of Mt. Morris; Townships of Mt. Morris & Genesee . .	Vikki Bayeh Haley
Div. 4	Cities of Fenton, Grand Blanc & Swartz Creek; Townships of Fenton, Argentine, Grand Blanc, Mundy, Gaines & Clayton	Mark C. McCabe Christopher Odette
68	City of Flint	Tracy L. Collier-Nix William H. Crawford, II Mary Catherine Dowd Herman Marable, Jr. Nathaniel C. Perry, III
70, Div. 1	Cities of Saginaw & Zilwaukee; Townships of Zilwaukee, Buena Vista, Carrollton & Bridgeport	Terry L. Clark M. Randall Jurens M. T. Thompson, Jr.
Div. 2	Saginaw County, except Cities of Saginaw & Zilwaukee, Townships of Zilwaukee, Buena Vista, Carrollton & Bridgeport	Alfred T. Frank Kyle Higgs Tarrant
71A	Lapeer County	Laura Cheger-Barnard
71B	Tuscola County	Kim David Glaspie

JUDGES OF THE DISTRICT COURT *(Cont.)*

District	Geographical Area	Judge
72	St. Clair County	Michael L. Hulewicz John D. Monaghan Cynthia Siemen Platzter
73A*	Sanilac County	None
73B*	Huron County	None
74	Bay County	Mark E. Janer Timothy J. Kelly Dawn A. Klida
75	Midland County	Michael Carpenter
76	Isabella County	Eric Janes
77	Mecosta & Osceola Counties	Peter Jaklevic
78	Oceana & Newaygo Counties	H. Kevin Drake
79	Mason & Lake Counties	Peter J. Wadel
80	Clare & Gladwin Counties	Joshua M. Farrell
81	Alcona, Arenac, Iosco & Oscoda Counties	Allen C. Yenior
82	Ogemaw County	Richard E. Noble
83	Roscommon County	Daniel L. Sutton
84	Missaukee & Wexford Counties	Audrey D. Van Alst
85*	Benzie & Manistee Counties	None
86	Antrim, Grand Traverse & Leelanau Counties	Thomas J. Phillips Michael Stepka
87A	Otsego County	Patricia A. Morse
87B*	Kalkaska County	None
87C*	Crawford County	None
88	Alpena & Montmorency Counties	None
89	Cheboygan & Presque Isle Counties	Maria I. Barton
90	Charlevoix & Emmet Counties	James N. Erhart
91*	Chippewa County	None
92	Luce & Mackinac Counties	Beth Gibson
93	Alger & Schoolcraft Counties	Mark E. Luoma
94	Delta County	Steve Parks
95A	Menominee County	Jeffrey G. Barstow
95B	Dickinson & Iron Counties	Christopher S. Ninomiya
96	Marquette County	Dennis H. Girard Roger W. Kangas
97	Baraga, Houghton & Keweenaw Counties	Mark A. Wisti
98	Gogebic & Ontonagon Counties	None

* In a few counties, the probate judge also serves as the district court judge. Those district courts are listed as having no judges.

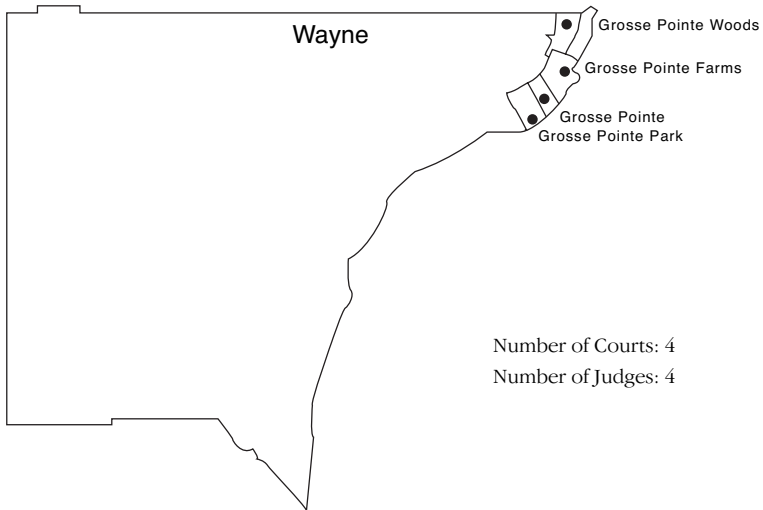
MUNICIPAL COURTS

Municipal courts were organized subject to Act 5 of 1956, although most were organized under either Act 279 of 1909 or Act 269 of 1933. They have exclusive original jurisdiction over all ordinance violations, criminal jurisdiction equal to that of district court, and civil jurisdiction of claims limited to \$3,000.

The District Court Act of 1968 abolished most of the municipal courts, but permitted some municipalities to retain their courts. Four such municipal courts remain: Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, and Grosse Pointe Woods, all in Wayne County.

Municipal judges must be lawyers and residents and electors of their municipalities. They are paid by the municipalities and are elected for four-year terms.

In 2013, 28,540 cases were filed, continuing a downward trend seen in previous years. Almost 40 percent of cases filed are traffic related.



JUDICIAL BRANCH AGENCIES

State Appellate Defender Office

The Michigan Supreme Court established the State Appellate Defender Office (SADO) through a 1969 federal grant award, followed by a 1970 administrative order, Order 1970-1, charging it with providing high-quality and efficient legal representation to indigent criminal defendants in post-conviction matters. In 1979, legislation was enacted to formally establish and fund the office, with mandates to handle no less than 25% of statewide appellate assignments, and to provide legal resources to the criminal defense bar. Public Act 620 of 1978 (MCL 780.711 et seq.) created a seven-member Appellate Defender Commission, charged with developing and supervising a coordinated system for providing counsel for all indigent criminal appeals in Michigan.

SADO has offices in Detroit and Lansing providing appellate representation to indigent criminal appellants in all state and appropriate federal courts. Its attorneys routinely obtain corrections to client sentences that produce cost savings for Michigan taxpayers, as well as new trials and exonerations in a smaller percentage of cases. SADO has a comprehensive training program for its staff, and trains law students through clinics or classes offered at all Michigan law schools. Special projects are funded through a variety of federal grants. In recent years, projects have included: (1) a Crime Lab Project providing advocacy for persons adversely affected by the closure of the Detroit Police Crime Lab, (2) a Fast Response for Wrongful Conviction Project that identifies and investigates forensic and evidentiary issues in sufficient time to allow for their development on appeal, and (3) a Social Worker Sentencing Project that uses a social worker/attorney team to seek non-prison and shorter sentences for clients posing little risk to public safety. Community outreach and holistic client support are provided through a variety of special events and materials developed by SADO staff.

SADO's Criminal Defense Resource Center (CDRC) provides support services and training to Michigan's criminal defense community using its portal site, www.sado.org. Services include online databases (pleadings, expert testimony, and more), court opinion summaries, four practice manuals (the Defender Books), technology and sentencing training events throughout the state, an online discussion group, and direct research support for attorneys practicing in Michigan's busiest criminal court, Wayne Circuit Court. The CDRC administers approximately \$300,000 in training funds awarded to SADO annually, partnering with the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan, Criminal Advocacy Program of Wayne Circuit Court, and others. Dawn Van Hoek, Director.

Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System (MAACS)

Assigned private counsel handle 75% of all indigent felony appeals in Michigan. Until the advent of MAACS, there existed no uniform statewide method of qualifying and selecting those attorneys. Each jurisdiction had its own method of appointing appellate counsel and of paying them from county funds. The result was wide disparity in the quality of representation provided.

Act 620 of 1978 requires the commission to compile and keep current a statewide roster of attorneys eligible for, and willing to accept, appointment as criminal appellate defense counsel and to provide continuing legal education for those attorneys. MAACS is the administrative office that screens the qualifications of attorneys seeking to join the statewide roster, compiles local lists of roster attorneys willing to accept appointments in circuit court, provides training programs and resource materials to roster attorneys, and monitors compliance with the Minimum Standards for Indigent Criminal Appellate Defense Services.

Pursuant to its statutory mandate to develop a comprehensive service delivery system, the Appellate Defender Commission has adopted regulations designed to insure that appellate assignments are fairly distributed among qualified lawyers and that assigned private counsel remain professionally independent. MAACS monitors the process by which appellate counsel are selected in each jurisdiction, the distribution of cases among private counsel, and the allocation of cases between private counsel and SADO. MAACS also provides training programs and other reference materials to the attorneys on its roster. MAACS is located at 1375 S. Washington, Suite 300, Lansing, MI 48913. Dawn Van Hoek, Director.



Attorney Discipline Board

The Michigan Attorney Discipline Board was created by the Michigan Supreme Court, effective October 1, 1978, as the adjudicative arm of the Supreme Court for the discharge of the court's constitutional responsibility to supervise and discipline Michigan attorneys.

The Attorney Discipline Board consists of nine members who serve without compensation and who are appointed by the Supreme Court as follows: six lawyers and three public members (nonlawyers), each of whom may serve no more than two 3-year terms.

The role of the board in disciplinary proceedings begins after a grievance has been investigated by the grievance administrator and approved by the Attorney Grievance Commission for the filing of a formal complaint with the board. Grievances against attorneys are confidential during the investigation stage; however, the formal complaint, pleadings, hearing transcript, and orders are a matter of public record. All hearings conducted by the Attorney Discipline Board and its hearing panels are open to the public.

As appointees of the Attorney Discipline Board, approximately 425 Michigan attorneys serve as volunteers on the three-member panels, which act as the trial level of the board's proceedings. The board may also refer a matter for examination by a special master when a complaint involves specialized questions of fact or is of such complexity or volume that it requires prolonged hearing time or expedited attention.

Proceedings before a hearing panel are governed by the Michigan Court Rules applicable to a civil matter tried without a jury and by the Michigan Rules of Evidence. Special procedural rules apply in cases based upon an attorney's conviction of a crime or an adjudication of professional misconduct in another jurisdiction. In all other disciplinary proceedings, professional misconduct must be established by a preponderance of the evidence. If misconduct is established, the hearing panel must conduct a separate hearing to determine the appropriate level of discipline. A hearing panel may enter orders of probation, reprimand, suspension for a stated period of time (minimum — 30 days), or disbarment. A hearing panel is empowered to order restitution to the attorney's client(s) and must order reimbursement to the State Bar of Michigan of the expenses of the hearing. A separate court rule governs proceedings before a hearing panel based upon a complaint by the grievance administrator to place an attorney on inactive status because of mental or physical incapacity.

A hearing panel's order to dismiss a complaint or to impose discipline becomes a final order unless appealed to the Attorney Discipline Board. Appeals from hearing panel decisions are heard by the full board as a matter of right and are based upon the record before the panel. Appeals from a decision by the board may be pursued only by leave of the Michigan Supreme Court. Appeals may be filed by the grievance administrator, the respondent/attorney, or the original complainant(s).

Attorneys who are found to be physically or mentally unable to continue in the practice of law may be placed on inactive status for an indefinite period; disciplinary complaints against such individuals are held in abeyance during the period of incapacity.

Attorneys suspended for 179 days or less may be automatically reinstated upon the filing of an affidavit of compliance with the order of discipline. In cases of suspension for 180 days or more, the attorney must file a petition for reinstatement, which is followed by a new investigation and establishment by the respondent/attorney of his or her fitness to reenter the practice of law. Attorneys suspended for three years or more must, in addition to reinstatement proceedings, undergo examination and recertification by the State Board of Law Examiners. In Michigan, an attorney who has been disbarred may petition for reinstatement after five years. The office of the board is located in Suite 1410, 211 W. Fort St., Detroit, MI 48226. Mark Armitage, Executive Director.

Further information about the board, including board orders and opinions, notices of discipline and the most recent annual reports may be obtained at the board's website: www.adbmich.org.

Attorney Grievance Commission

The Michigan Attorney Grievance Commission was created by the Michigan Supreme Court, effective October 1, 1978. Along with the simultaneously created Attorney Discipline Board, the commission succeeded the former State Bar Grievance Board. Pursuant to MCR 9.108(A), the commission is the prosecutorial arm of the supreme court for the discharge of its constitutional responsibility to supervise and discipline Michigan attorneys.

The Attorney Grievance Commission has nine members. Three members are lay persons and 6 are attorneys, appointed by the Supreme Court.

Pursuant to MCR 9.108(E)(1), the commission has the power and duty to recommend attorneys to the Supreme Court for appointment as grievance administrator and deputy grievance administrator. The grievance administrator serves as executive director and chief prosecutor.

Sub-chapter 9.100 of the Michigan Court Rules governs attorney disciplinary proceedings.

Grievances filed against attorneys are denominated “requests for investigation.” Any person may file a request for investigation with the grievance administrator and the grievance administrator may also file a request.

Following the filing of a request for investigation, the grievance administrator must determine whether a *prima facie* allegation of professional misconduct, i.e., a violation of Michigan Court Rule 9.104, exists. The grievance administrator may reject the request for investigation on its face or after a preliminary investigation, or he or she may conduct a full investigation. If the grievance administrator does not reject the request for investigation, he or she will, upon conclusion of the investigation, recommend to the commission that (1) the matter be closed as there is not evidence of professional misconduct sufficient to sustain the burden of proof at a disciplinary proceeding, or (2) the commission admonish the respondent attorney pursuant to MCR 9.106(6) (this does not constitute discipline), or (3) authorization be granted for the issuance of a formal complaint.

Upon being authorized to file a formal complaint by the commission, the grievance administrator causes a complaint to be prepared and filed with the Attorney Discipline Board. The only exception to this is in the case of criminal convictions, where an order is issued by the board commanding the respondent to show cause why discipline should not be imposed.

Public hearings on charges of misconduct are held before three-lawyer hearing panels of the Attorney Discipline Board. In the case of a formal complaint, the grievance administrator is required to prove his or her case by a preponderance of the evidence. Upon conclusion of the hearing, if the panel finds that the grievance administrator has failed to prove misconduct alleged in the formal complaint by a preponderance of the evidence, the charge against the respondent must be dismissed. If the panel concludes that misconduct has been proven by a preponderance of the evidence, the panel must enter an order of discipline, which may consist of a reprimand, probation, suspension, or disbarment. Restitution to an aggrieved party may also be required.

Any party may appeal an order of a hearing panel, as a matter of right, to the Attorney Discipline Board, and may seek leave to appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court from an order of the Attorney Discipline Board. The office of the commission is located in Suite 1700, 535 Griswold St., Detroit, MI 48226. Alan Gershel, Grievance Administrator.



Judicial Tenure Commission

Michigan's Judicial Tenure Commission was established in 1968 when voters approved H.J.R. PP, which added Sec. 30 to Article VI of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. The commission serves to promote the integrity of the judicial process and preserve public confidence in the courts by holding judges accountable for their misconduct without jeopardizing or compromising the essential independence of the judiciary. The basis for commission action is a violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct or the Rules of Professional Responsibility. The code is published with the Michigan Court Rules.

On recommendation of the Judicial Tenure Commission, the Michigan Supreme Court may censure, suspend with or without salary, retire, or remove a judge for conviction of a felony, physical or mental disability that prevents the performance of judicial duties, misconduct in office, persistent failure to perform duties, habitual intemperance, or conduct that is clearly prejudicial to the administration of justice. The office is located at Cadillac Place, 3034 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202. Paul J. Fischer, Executive Director. For more information, see www.jtc.courts.mi.gov.



State Board of Law Examiners

The State Board of Law Examiners, constituted by Act 236 of 1961, consists of five active members of the bar, each of whom holds office for five years and one of whom is appointed by the governor on nomination by the Supreme Court on the first day of July each year.

The board has charge of the investigation and examination of all persons who initially apply for admission to the bar of this state. The board offices are located at 4th Floor, Hall of Justice, P.O. Box 30052, Lansing, MI 48909. Maribeth Preston, Executive Director. For more information, see <http://courts.mi.gov/courts/MichiganSupremeCourt/BLE>.



STATE COURT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

According to the Michigan Constitution of 1963, Article VI, Section 3, “. . . the supreme court shall appoint an administrator of the courts and other assistants of the supreme court as may be necessary to aid in the administration of the courts of this state. The administrator shall perform administrative duties assigned by the court.” Under the general direction of the Supreme Court, the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) is responsible for assisting in the administration of justice in Michigan’s trial courts. The state court administrator is also responsible for advising the Supreme Court, as well as the executive and legislative branches, on matters relating to the management of scao. Michigan’s One Court of Justice. For more information on SCAO, go to www.courts.michigan.gov/scao.

The **State Court Administrative Office (SCAO)** provides management assistance and oversight to chief judges and judges of 244 trial courts and their trial court staff on matters relating to trial court management. SCAO collects, analyzes, and publishes management information regarding operations of trial courts. This information is used by the Supreme Court and state court administrator in evaluating the performance of Michigan courts and making decisions regarding their operations. The office provides analyses of legislative and executive branch policy initiatives in terms of their administrative impact on the judiciary. SCAO also assists in the evaluation of court rules and legislation affecting administration of courts, proposes changes to rules and statutes where appropriate, and advises the Supreme Court on administrative matters.

SCAO is comprised of six divisions: Trial Court Services, Child Welfare Services, Office of Dispute Resolution, Judicial Information Systems, Michigan Judicial Institute, and Regional Administration. Each division has a director responsible for oversight, coordination, improvement efforts, and overall management of each of their respective divisions. Each division director reports directly to the state court administrator.

Trial Court Services is responsible for providing management assistance to courts: administering, participating in, and providing support to a variety of court improvement projects; developing and implementing policies and procedures; conducting legislative and policy analyses; providing standards for trial court operations; serving as liaison to court management organizations and executive and legislative branch agencies; and producing various publications, procedural manuals, and standard court forms are used in everyday operations within the courts. Trial Court Services’ Friend of the Court Bureau offers policy and operational support to family division judges and friend of the court offices, including recommending procedures and guidelines for child support, custody, and parenting time cases. Trial Court Services also provides staff support to the Court Reporting and Recording Board of Review, which establishes criteria and administers tests for certification of court reporters and recorders. Special projects include the Drug Treatment Court Grant Program and Trial Court Collections.

Child Welfare Services (CWS) provides assistance to circuit court family divisions on child welfare matters, including child protective proceedings, foster care, adoption, coordination with Indian tribes, termination of parental rights, permanency outcomes, and data collection and analysis. CWS administers the Michigan Court Improvement Program (CIP) and the Foster Care Review Board Program (FCRB) and provides 25 to 30 multi-disciplinary trainings each year on a variety of child welfare issues. The CIP is part of a nationwide effort to improve how courts handle child abuse and neglect cases. The program is funded by federal grants that are guided by and operate through a statewide, cross-disciplinary task force aimed at improving the three key elements of child protective proceedings: safety, permanency, and well-being for children. The CIP allows Michigan to implement necessary reforms, track its progress toward meeting state and federal laws, national standards, and program improvement plans to improve child protective court proceedings. The FCRB provides independent, periodic review of cases in the state foster care system. A statewide advisory committee, including leaders from the child welfare community, ensures that the program fulfills its statutory mandates and provides maximum benefit to improving the foster care system.

The **Office of Dispute Resolution** is responsible for developing dispute resolution practices and protocols for the trial courts, providing technical assistance to the trial courts, implementing dispute resolution practices mandated or permitted by court rule or statute, evaluating dispute resolution systems, and providing recommendations to the state court administrator for improving dispute resolution services for Michigan citizens.

The office also provides project administration, oversight, and evaluation of the Community Dispute Resolution Program. Created by Public Act 260 of 1988, this program also provides financial support to nonprofit organizations that in turn provide free or low-cost mediation in a wide variety of disputes as an alternative to the traditional adversarial court process.

The office serves as liaison to dispute resolution service providers, academic programs, associations, courts, and other agencies and organizations having special focus on dispute resolution research, services, and evaluation.

The **Judicial Information Systems (JIS) Division**, with offices in Lansing and Detroit, is responsible for developing and maintaining office automation applications for the Michigan Supreme Court and to subscribers of its trial court applications. JIS currently provides support and training to more than 247 judicial branch employees and to 249 of 319 trial court locations that use its Circuit, District and Probate Courts case management system. Sixty-four locations use the Jury management system. JIS advises and assists trial courts in the selection, acquisition, installation, programming, and operation of automated data processing systems. The division coordinates with other state agencies in the development, support, accumulation, and submission of court-related data to state repositories. JIS also participates in other Supreme Court initiatives where technological advances contribute to improved service, performance, and access to the judiciary. These initiatives include trial court connectivity, improving electronic submission of data to state agencies, web-enabled applications for court payments and e-filing, data warehousing, and the next generation of case management software for the state's trial courts.

The **Michigan Judicial Institute (MJi)** was developed by the Michigan Supreme Court in 1977 to provide judges and court personnel with opportunities to develop and enhance professional skills. Continuing judicial branch education is provided in many formats, including live seminars; publications; distance learning opportunities; web-based training; a resource library that includes materials from the State Justice Institute, American Bar Association, American Judicature Society, National Association of State Judicial Educators, and National Association for Court Management; and MJi-sponsored programs. MJi is also responsible for the Supreme Court Learning Center, located in the Hall of Justice, and designed to educate the public on the Michigan court system. Electronic versions of MJi training materials can be accessed at www.courts.mi.gov/mji. The Supreme Court Learning Center information is available at <http://courts.mi.gov/education/mji>.

Regional Administration is comprised of five regional offices that provide direct services to the courts and serve as links between the Supreme Court and the local trial courts. Each regional office provides management assistance to trial court chief judges and staff in the administration of judicial business. They implement Supreme Court judicial administration policy, monitor workload and caseload, and serve as a primary contact for local funding units and other local justice system stakeholders regarding judicial operations. Regional administrators and their staff visit courts in their respective regions and meet with judges, court staff, county commissioners, other local officials, attorneys, and litigants. In addition, the regional offices issue judicial assignments authorizing judges to serve in courts outside of their jurisdiction when necessary.

The **Region I State Court Administrative Office** is located in Detroit and serves the trial courts in Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne counties. The **Region II State Court Administrative Office** is located in Lansing and serves the trial courts in Genesee, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson, Lapeer, Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, Shiawassee, St. Clair, and Washtenaw counties. The **Region III State Court Administrative Office** is located in Mt. Pleasant and serves the trial courts in Alcona, Arenac, Bay, Benzie, Clare, Clinton, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Ionia, Iosco, Isabella, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Montcalm, Newaygo, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Roscommon, Saginaw, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. The **Region IV State Court Administrative Office** is located in Gaylord and serves the trial courts in Alger, Alpena, Antrim, Baraga, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Emmet, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Iron, Kalkaska, Keweenaw, Leelanau, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ontonagon, Otsego, Presque Isle, Schoolcraft, and Wexford counties. The **Region V State Court Administrative Office** is located in Lansing and serves the trial courts in Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Eaton, Kalamazoo, Kent, Muskegon, Ottawa, St. Joseph, and Van Buren counties.



